

# HILLSBORO

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AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY





# *HILLSBORO GUIDE*

*Compiled by the*

WORKERS OF THE WRITERS' PROGRAM

*of the*

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

*in the State of Illinois*

*Sponsored By*

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## *Preface*

History is too frequently thought of in terms of battlegrounds and diplomatic conferences, of incredible happenings in the dim past and the far away. Hillsboro has had none of this sort of history. The story of its growth is the story of ordinary people who worked together to bring order to a new unbroken country, to build themselves a home rather than an empire. The result of their efforts is more significant, in a constructive sense, than that of many to whom chapters are devoted in formal histories. In this light the history of Hillsboro possesses significance; it is the story of the growth of the hundreds of little cities that make up the Illinois of our time.

I wish to express my appreciation to Harold Blizzard, who wrote the text, to Adrian Troy, of the Illinois Art Project, who made the illustrations, and especially to the people of Hillsboro, whose generous cooperation, both in the compilation and sponsorship, made this book possible.

JOHN T. FREDERICK  
*Regional Supervisor,  
WPA Writers' Program.*





# Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION .....	7
MAP OF HILLSBORO .....	8
HILLSBORO TODAY .....	9
EARLY DAYS .....	12
THE RAILROAD .....	20
DEVELOPMENT .....	24
A TALL GAUNT MAN .....	37
BUGLE CALLS .....	43
OLD SETTLERS' DAY .....	47
SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES, CLUBS AND CULTURE .....	52
NEWSPAPERS .....	67
POINTS OF INTEREST .....	70
CHRONOLOGY .....	83
TOWN PRESIDENTS AND CITY MAYORS .....	90
PERSONAL INTERVIEWS .....	91
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	92
VIEWS OF HILLSBORO .....	93-102



## *General Information*

RAILROAD STATION: Depot at south edge of town for the New York Central R. R. and the Chicago and Eastern Illinois R. R.

BUSES: Mobley's drug store, Main Street, for the Santa Fe lines.

TAXIS: 10c per person within the city limits.

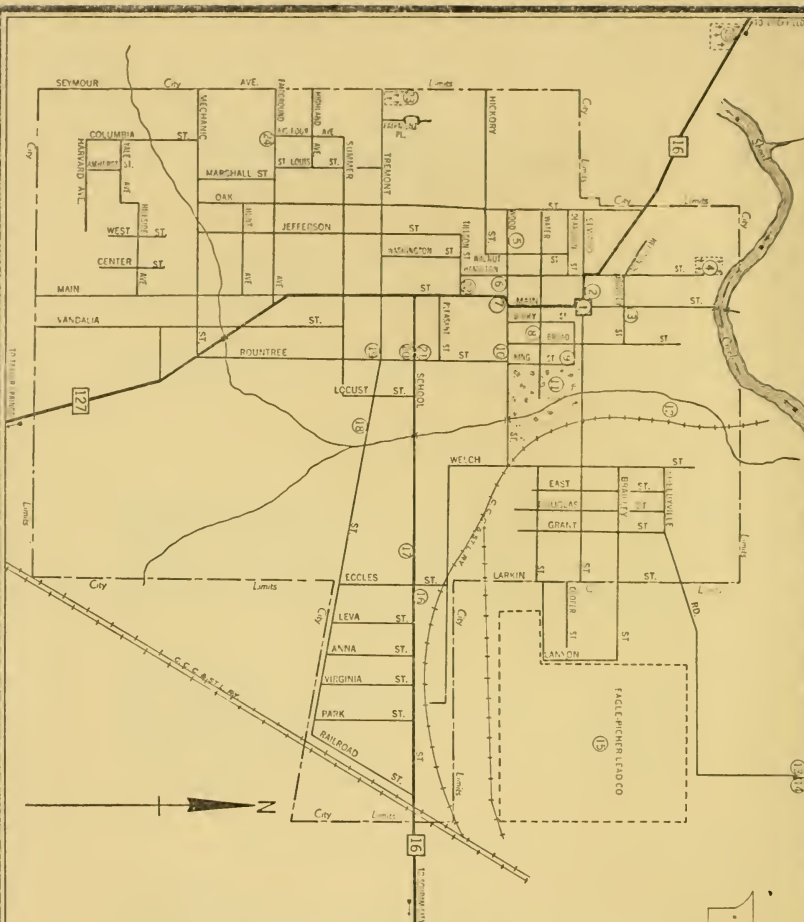
HIGHWAYS: State 127, a north and south paved highway, intersects with State 16 at Hillsboro. These routes connect with US 66, running from Chicago to the southwest. Farm to market roads traverse the county and lead to Hillsboro.

RECREATION: Lake Hillsboro Park provides fishing, boating and bathing. Central Park has a baseball diamond, double tennis court and outdoor swimming pool. The Hillsboro Country Club (private) offers a splendid nine hole golf course. There are two theaters.

HOTELS: Two hotels, several rooming houses.

PUBLIC LIBRARY: The Hillsboro Carnegie Public Library, on the corner of School and Rountree streets, is open each week day.

INFORMATION SERVICE: Hillsboro Commercial Club, office of the secretary, 300A S. Main Street.



# HILLSBORO

1940

## INDEX

- 1 Montgomery County Courthouse
- 2 Montgomery County Farm Bureau
- 3 Winhold School
- 4 Puffs Cemetery
- 5 Miller House
- 6 Hillsboro Post Office
- 7 Odd Fellows Building
- 8 Site Of Joseph T. Eccles House
- 9 Second Oldest House In Hillsboro
- 10 Heam Roundtree House
- 11 Central Park
- 12 City Water Works
- 13 City Lake Park
- 14 Country Club
- 15 Earle Fisher Leal Company Plant
- 16 Hillsboro Mine
- 17 Hillsboro Hospital
- 18 Huxstorn Community High School
- 19 St Agnes Church
- 20 Hillsboro Public Library
- 21 Edison School
- 22 Sign Of Blockburger Inn
- 23 Oak Grove Cemetery
- 24 Junior High School Campus
- 25 Cross Hill Cemetery



## *Hillsboro Today*

HILLSBORO (626 alt., 4,435 pop.) lies approximately midway between Springfield, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri, a short distance east of US 66, the main highway between those two cities. The table-top farms of the Illinois prairie circle the town, but at the townsite the prairie folds gently, giving a roller-coaster bump to State 16 as it enters the town from the west. The fold rolls on through the town, and may have accounted for Hillsboro's name, although some contend that it commemorates Hillsboro, North Carolina, whence many of the pioneers came.

There has been an organized community here for more than a century, and a settlement of sorts for almost a century and a half. Although a considerable portion of Hillsboro was built up since the turn of the century, the town as a whole has the appearance of being long settled. Old elms arch over wide streets that were platted decades before any of the present residences were built. Yet the dominant residential architecture is redolent of the days of Grant, Hayes, and McKinley: generous lawns surround houses, some of which were built when Frank Lloyd Wright was still in his swaddling clothes, before the Chautauqua was in full flower and the horseless carriage was the subject of ironic editorials. And the long commercial corridor

of Main Street is in keeping with this note, for although chaste plastics and chromium have been applied to the ground floors the cornices and fancy brackets above belong to the period when a store was a "mercantile emporium."

On South Main Street, where Dunn-Brown and Company and H. M. Beckwith have offices, stands the oldest store building (1855) in Hillsboro. A stone's throw away is the Walker Building, newest commercial building, erected in 1934. The Hillsboro that saw the Walker Building go up is basically much the same as that which watched the construction of its old neighbor almost eighty years earlier. Hillsboro is a country town that almost became a city. Although it achieved incorporation as a city in 1869, it remained essentially a rural trading center until the first decade of this century. By 1912 it boasted three coal mines, two smelters, and a large glass factory. But this sudden rush of industrialization leveled out within fifteen years, and Hillsboro today is a typical county seat with several manufacturing plants and a coal mine, rather than an industrial center with an incidental courthouse.

This fact makes itself evident in the tempo of the town and in its appearance. The courthouse, with its pretentious mansard tower, dominates the town's unobtrusive skyline and appears to stand as a sentinel over Main Street. On Saturdays farmers swarm into town to shop and to exchange produce for merchandise; but there is a steady trickle of them through the week, as they converge on the courthouse to pay taxes, attend court, and record deeds, to enter births for the newly born and wills for the newly dead. Generally they come in automobiles, but the hitching rack on Berry Street—just one block off Main—is not completely an anachronism. There the nearby flour and feed stores, the poultry houses, a blacksmith shop, and a harness shop make the automobile, rather than the occasional horse-drawn rig, seem out of place and out of time.

The trade attracted by the courthouse has resulted in a Main Street commercial district somewhat larger than

the population of Hillsboro itself warrants. There are two banks, two movies, and two newspaper offices, where many towns of 5,000 afford only one of each. A few other signs indicate the modest prestige of the county seat; an abundance of lawyers, a smattering of real-estate and abstract offices. During the past few months the town has experienced the excitement of a potential oil boom. Crews working north from southern Illinois oil fields are making tests, and a few wells are being drilled in the vicinity of Hillsboro. Other than this recent flurry of activity, Hillsboro might well serve as the Middletown of midwestern county seats.

The roots of a county seat go out beyond its borders, and much of Hillsboro's stability comes from the land. Some of the most fertile soil in the state is found near the Ware's Grove community north of town where years ago the settlers organized a drainage district and coaxed the muddy waters from a vast swamp. There is the highly productive corn ground—the dark loam which with normal rainfall gives enormous yields of corn to be fed to cattle and hogs, or marketed as a cash crop. To the southwest lies the Shoal Creek area, where the bottom lands keep the corn growing even during long dry spells. Although corn is a major crop, the entire farming community is rapidly becoming a soybean producing center.

There is no large scale dairying, but almost every farmer has a few cows. Some milk from the Hillsboro area goes to the Litchfield Creamery and to the larger dairies in St. Louis. Close to town browse the herds of Guernseys, Holsteins, and Jerseys which supply much of the milk for Hillsboro tables. In recent years some farmers have specialized in raising Hereford cattle for the market.





## *Early Days*

SHORTLY AFTER 1800 John Nussman and his wife, natives of North Carolina, journeyed westward in search of a new home and came to the vicinity of the present city of Hillsboro. Mrs. Nussman explored the hillsides of this region; and when she found a wet boggy spot of ground near the foot of a hill, she dug with her bare hands through the mud and clay until she found a spring of clear water. Good water meant that a home could be built, and so they erected the first cabin on the site of Hillsboro. Mr. Nussman was a wagonmaker and for a time owned and operated a small distillery on the west side of present Central Park.

The first permanent settlement in Montgomery County was made in 1816 on the Hurricane Creek, near the present town of Fillmore. Next came the Clear Springs community, a few miles southwest of Hillsboro. While the discovery of a good spring was one important factor in the founding of Hillsboro, a quarrel in 1821 among the first county commissioners shaped the destiny of Hillsboro as a county seat. When Montgomery County was formed by an act of the state legislature, February 12, 1821, three special commissioners were appointed to select a county



seat. The three men, Melcher Fogleman, James Street, and Joseph Wright met at the home of Joseph McAdams on March 21, 1821, and selected a site three miles southwest of Hillsboro on land then owned by Joel Smith and David Killpatrick. The three regular commissioners, John Beck, John Seward, and John McAdams then held a special meeting on April 23, when they chose the name of "Hamilton" for the first county seat, and ordered the land laid out in town lots. One of the commissioners who came from the southern part of the county did not favor Hamilton as the county seat, and eventually so much dissatisfaction arose that the state legislature was prevailed upon to appoint another set of commissioners. On August 5, 1823, the three officials, Newton Coffey, Harris Reavis, and James Wilson accepted Hillsboro as the county seat and ordered the surveyor to lay out town lots. George File, the first man to survey the town, was given \$3.75 for his labor. Newton Coffey purchased the plot of twenty acres from the government for fifty dollars and donated the land to establish the town of Hillsboro. Today there is no trace of Hamilton.

Hillsboro was laid out without any apparent plan; according to Judge Hiram Rountree, one of the ruling spirits of the early community, "The territory was of such shape, being filled with hills and hollows, it was deemed almost impossible that the streets could ever become harmonious by labor. To avoid one hollow, John Tillson made a jog to find more level ground for streets."

Although at first there were no public buildings, the lack of a courthouse was no obstacle to Judge John J. Reynolds, later governor of the state, who was called to the Hillsboro community in 1821 to preside over the first session of court. Judge Reynolds went to the home of Thomas McAdams, west of Hillsboro, where he conducted the legal business of the day sitting on the side of a bed.

A courthouse was the first public building erected. Bids on it were requested at a commissioners' meeting held in August, 1823. The plans called for a building "of hewn

logs, two stories high, one window below and one above, doors to have good strong shutters, the logs to be chinked and plastered with mud, all to be completed in a strong manner by the first of December next." Thomas McAdams was given the building contract for \$221.83 1-3. Separate bids called for five courthouse seats, a seat for the judge, and a writing desk. Specifications for the desk were "two feet four inches above the level of the floor, with a board on top inclined so as to be suitable for writing." Two years later the commissioners ordered a suitable stairway built between the first and second floors.

Official business soon outgrew the log cabin structure and in 1833 Austin Whitten was awarded a contract to construct a frame courthouse for \$1,800. For some unknown reason, only one-third of the entrance floor was covered with boards; the remainder was filled in with sand to within four inches of the top of the sills. However, the sand floor was somewhat offset by the special dome "of fashionable form and material."

In 1854 the frame courthouse was replaced by a two story brick structure which served the county's purpose until 1870, when extensive alterations and modifications resulted in the courthouse much as it stands today. Perhaps there would have been an entirely new building started before 1870 had there not been some sentiment to place the courthouse in Litchfield. Moving the seat of justice to a neighboring town was bitterly opposed by many Hillsboro persons, and a solution was eventually found in the decision to remodel the old building even though it meant tearing away all but a few of the original bricks.

Hillsboro flourished in a moderate way during the early twenties, growing slowly but with the certainty of a town around which centered the business of a county. Merchants and mechanics came in, and in 1824 the enterprising commissioners unknowingly formed the first commercial club when they decided that "it would be of great advantage

to the county and city of Hillsboro to have useful and mechanical trades carried on in the town."

A Hillsboro lot was given to Benjamin and Joseph Miller on condition that the Millers carry on a leather tanning business for two years. The tanyard was established at the foot of the hill on the west side of Central Park. A lot was also offered to John Hawkins Rountree, a blacksmith, provided he set up a shop.

The commissioners also gave timber cutting privileges to anyone who bought a lot in Hillsboro. Trees might be taken from the public square or from any street "provided the stump left standing be not more than six inches from the ground."

The *Gazeteer of Illinois*, published in 1834, gives the following summary of Hillsboro eleven years after its establishment:

That it is the seat of Justice of Montgomery county, twenty eight miles northwest of Vandalla. It has six stores, four taverns, three blacksmiths, two tanneries, one shoemaker, two tallors, one tinner, a postoffice, land agency conducted by John Tillson, fifty families and two hundred and fifty inhabitants. The principal roads from Vandalla to Springfield and another from Shelbyville to Alton pass through the place. Hillsboro is a healthy and flourishing town.

Before the railroad reached Hillsboro in 1855, grain hauling was done by team and wagon. The principal markets were at Alton and St. Louis, and the overland wagon journey to either river town was long and difficult. With the exception of small rail enclosures, there were few fences. Cattle and hogs roamed at will, and to facilitate the identification of stock, farmers branded their animals. One of the oldest records in the courthouse is the "Earmark Registry" of live stock, showing entries as early as 1821. An enclosure to hold stray animals was built in Hillsboro in 1831, and Stephen Fullingsworth was appointed "keeper of the stray pen."

Until 1847, the fate of a pauper was settled at a public sale with contracts for his care awarded to individuals submitting the lowest bid. One indigent woman was bound

out for twelve years to the lowest bidder. The first regular poor farm was established in Irving township in 1847, but the location was not satisfactory and finally in 1874 the site now occupied by the present county home, two miles south of Hillsboro, was chosen.

Money was scarce but the pioneers took over the business of running the community with the same rugged honesty and singleness of purpose they showed in breaking the soil and building their cabin homes. Before Hillsboro was accepted as the county seat, the commissioners faced the problem of paying their first bill from an empty treasury. The statement for \$16.50 was disposed of by ordering the treasurer to pay the bill "just as soon as he gets some money in his hands."

The tavern business was one of considerable importance to the citizens of every pioneer town. Robert Anderson was given a permit in 1822 to "sell liquor and other articles" in the vicinity of Hillsboro, and a second license was granted in October of the same year to Milton Shurtleff. Taverns accommodated both "man and beast," for the convenience of the wayfarer who traveled on horseback or with team and wagon. A pioneer coming to Hillsboro in 1824 paid 12½ cents for a room in the town tavern and the same amount for breakfast. The care of his horse came to a like total.

The commissioners fixed the rates to be charged in taverns and gave the proprietors strict orders to ask no greater amounts than those specified. The price schedule in 1824 was: Whiskey 37½ cents a pint, cider 12½ cents a quart, wine and brandy 37½ cents a pint, horse feed 12½ cents, horse per night with corn and hay 25 cents, breakfast for man 12½ cents, dinner or supper 18¾ cents, lodging for man 12½ cents.

The cost of a tavern license ranged from three to five dollars a year, except in the case of one citizen who apparently had a surplus of ambition and a shortage of funds. According to the county files of 1824, "John Nussman did

not have a dollar for a tavern license so he was allowed to work it out cutting trees about the courthouse."

Records list Joseph Miller and Richard Bradley as early tavern proprietors, followed by David Jackson, James Rutledge, and C. B. Blockburger. Hiram Rountree said of the Rutledge tavern:

His was the first old fashioned tavern sign we ever saw, embodying as it did, a large tiger on a white ground, surrounded by the name and occupation. Any one who kept a grocery for the sale of liquor was compelled to keep sufficient room and bedding for two persons with provender and stabling for horses; it was optional with them whether they sold liquors, and most of them sold it in a private way.

The laying out of new roads also required the attention of the commissioners. Citizens presented petitions to the commissioners, who then appointed men to study the topography of the country through which the road was to run. One of the first orders was for a road from Hillsboro to Bond County "over the nearest line to Greenville, so as to cross Bear Creek, at the place where the Sangamon Road crosses the same." Permission was also granted for a road to run from "Cornfed Smith's Nob, near Capt. Casey's, through the Newton Coffey plantation by James Freeman's cabin, through the scattering timber to McDavid's Nob." Many pioneers were rugged individualists and the commissioners admonished "said hands to obey the road supervisor."

One of the most widely traveled roads was the Vandalia-Springfield route, which followed what is now Main Street of Hillsboro. It was over this trail that Lincoln and other statesmen traveled from Springfield to Vandalia. It was not until 1835 that control of Hillsboro streets was placed in the hands of duly elected road supervisors. In that year the commissioners ordered the road supervisor to open all Hillsboro streets "a sufficient width to permit the passage of wagons and carriages."

The tax records of 1823 list Negroes and mulattoes for taxation along with watches, clocks, distilleries, iron

bound wheel carriages, deeds, and town lots. The tax rate was fifty cents on each one hundred dollars' valuation with all property valued at State Paper rates. State Paper was generally known as "wildcat money" and was worthless outside the state of Illinois. The money was generally accepted without question; but when one man wanted to pay his fine with a bill on a Missouri bank, the commissioners voted to send the bill to the Missouri bank to "ascertain its genuineness." In 1825, Treasurer John Tillson reported that he had received eighty-four dollars in taxes for the year; but that the sheriff, who was the actual collector, still owed him \$90.73 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Fistic encounters between quick tempered pioneers resulted in fines of three to five dollars and helped to swell the meager funds.

A jail, more noted for its strength than its appearance, was built in 1828 near the southwest corner of Seward and Broad streets. Between two walls of heavy logs was another set of upright heavy logs, making the structure sturdy enough to withstand any assault of the day. An entrance door was secured on the outside by white oak linch pins and three bars of iron. Some idea of the many and varied duties of the early jailer is indicated in the official's report of 1846 which listed "food cost for one prisoner thirty-seven cents a day, \$1.50 for making cuffs and leg bands, and fifty cents for making one shirt and washing two."

Indians camped near Hillsboro in sufficient numbers to create some anxiety on the part of the early homesteaders. Hiram Rountree, in his letters of 1873, said: "One day sixty Indians came at once to our cabin when I was away, and my wife was there alone, except for a young lady named Sears. They stole several things that day, although they were closely watched."

According to one source, three children of a family living about six miles southwest of Hillsboro were carried away by the Indians while the parents were absent. The Indians murdered the boy and were fleeing with the two girls when the neighbors started in pursuit. The girls jumped from their ponies and as they fled, an Indian threw



his tomahawk at one girl, injuring her severely. After the attack, the few families living in the neighborhood built a blockhouse fort for protection.

It is said that a renowned Indian fighter, Captain Whiteside, fought a battle with the Indians on Shoal Creek, not far from the present site of the old Litchfield-Hillsboro Chautauqua grounds. Gradually the Indians were crowded back, some going to Oklahoma, and the few remaining bands were forced into submission. Traces of Indian camps have been found near Hillsboro, and relics in the form of arrowheads are still the reward of students of Indian lore who explore the surrounding country side.



## *The Railroad*

THE DEMAND for a railroad in the early fifties was born of a desperate need of better transportation. The fertile soil of Montgomery County was yielding great quantities of corn, oats, and wheat; but the only method of hauling grain from Hillsboro to the principal markets in Alton and St. Louis was a slow and laborious three-day trip with team and wagon.

Agitation for a railroad to Hillsboro crystallized in the "railroad convention" of 1849, which drew a crowd of 6,000 persons to the county seat. The meeting place selected was in a wooded tract of land east of Main Street and south of Tremont Street. The underbrush was cut away and long tables were erected to feed the hungry and enthusiastic throng. Noted barbecue cooks watched over huge quarters of beef, pork, and mutton roasting above immense pits of glowing coals.

Anthony Thorton, Joseph Gillespie, Governor French, and other noted men were present. There were large delegations from neighboring counties, one from as far south as Wayne County. It is said that Bond County looked with disfavor upon the Hillsboro convention, and refused to send their representatives. According to one account the Wayne County delegates, coming through Greenville on their way to the convention, were taunted by the citizens of



that place and told that they would find nothing to eat in Hillsboro. On their return, the Wayne County delegates took with them a large supply of meat and bread, which they held aloft on the end of canes and poles as they passed through Greenville.

In 1851 the citizens of Hillsboro and Montgomery County voted to purchase \$50,000 in stock of the Terre Haute and Alton Company. On April 17, 1852, the commissioners selected Austin Whitten and Judge Edward Y. Rice to represent them at Shelbyville in the election of a president of the railroad corporation. Remembering some of the earlier lessons in railroad financing, the county officials made an agreement with the company calling for delivery of one-half the bonds when the rails were laid to the western boundary of the county, with the remaining half not payable until the road was completed to Hillsboro.

The first passenger train pulled into Hillsboro on July 4, 1855. Residents of towns along the new road celebrated the Fourth and the completion of the line to Hillsboro at the same time. Plans for a celebration in the neighboring town of Gillespie were affected by an early morning accident there. Said a Hillsboro newspaper in telling the story of the first train:

The railroad had been completed as far as Hillsboro and arrangements made for a grand celebration. Gillespie citizens had made a large flag, engaged the band, and arranged to fire a salute when the train came in. Early in the morning it was concluded to fire a few patriotic shots in honor of the Fourth. One of the anvils exploded, killing a young wagonmaker. This cast such a gloom over the community that many who had planned to ride the train to Hillsboro, remained at home. There was no telegraph at that time and the new flag was strung at half mast. The engineer, noticing the signal, slowed up and the train came in at a funeral pace.

The depot, razed years ago, was placed at the foot of Taylorville Road, adjacent to the present sewage disposal plant. North of the depot was the railroad water tank.

where Joe Moore drove a horse around and around in a circle, pumping water from Shoal Creek into the tank.

Some idea of the conveniences found in the early railroad depot is indicated in a Montgomery County paper of July 19, 1867, which reported:

Through the benevolence and liberality of the ticket agent at Hillsboro, a new tin cup has been procured to drink out of at the station. Passengers are no longer under the disagreeable necessity of wetting their snoots in the bucket.

The first express service from the station to uptown Hillsboro was operated by Col. Paul Walter. The colonel later sold the business to William Vawter, who, with his son John, hauled passengers to and from the old depot for more than forty years. Bus stops were made at the Stubblefield drug store, now Mobley's, and at the old Hillsboro Hotel. Travelers wishing to take a certain train would write their names on a slate in front of the drug store, and one of the three horse-drawn coaches would pick them up. Tickets on the line were fifteen cents or two for twenty-five.

The telegraph line reached Hillsboro three years after the railroad. On August 20, 1858, the *Montgomery Herald* reported:

The workmen will soon have the line to Hillsboro. We have not learned whether the office will be located in town or at the depot. It would be more accommodating on all hands to have it in the village.

Perhaps to the surprise of "all hands," the new telegraph service was a success from the day of its installation. On November 5, the *Herald* editor announced that "Everything worked right off, proving that the line had been carefully put up." C. W. Holden, the first telegraph operator, was described as being "polite and gentlemanly to all who have business with him."

Hillsboro's second railroad, a double track line, entered the south part of town in 1904. Although the citizens of the Hillsboro community welcomed another rail-

road, there was a sigh of relief when the construction work was completed. A Hillsboro newspaper of December 16, 1904, commented:

Last Friday the railroad construction men at this point were paid off and discharged. Saturday there were more drunks in town than we have had for a long time. The saloon keepers are the only ones who know how to handle these boomers who won't listen to anything but a good cussing backed up with a beer mallet. Since the beginning of the new railroad Hillsboro has been visited by thousands of these floaters and there have been hundreds of fights. Now that they are gone we can breathe easy again and thank our lucky stars that there have been no murders in Hillsboro.



## *Development*

IN 1855, the year of the first railroad, Hillsboro changed from a village to an incorporated town. The first ordinance, "To Prohibit the Running of Animals at Large," was passed on April 29 of that year by Town President Thomas Phillips, and trustees Solomon Harkey, D. R. Davis, and Ben Sammons. In all, sixteen ordinances were passed that day as a guide for proper conduct in the town. Animals, particularly hogs, horses, and mules, seemed to be responsible for many early petitions and subsequent laws. On May 22, 1858, a petition was circulated among the citizens asking the trustees to pass a "Hog Law."

On June 28, it became illegal to drive a horse, mare, or mule on any Hillsboro street at a speed greater than six miles per hour. Lack of respect for this ordinance is pointed out in the *Herald* of July 23.

Broken: The six miles ordinance is no go. It might as well be repealed as it is neither respected or enforced. Some of our fast horse men have taken particular pains to see what speed their ponies could go up and down Main Street.

In 1859 stories of gold to be found in the region of Pike's Peak started scores of pioneers on the road to a new country of greater promise. The migration threatened to

assume such import that the *Herald* editor cautioned his friends about leaving Hillsboro for the then uncertain fields in eastern Colorado.

That there is gold in the vicinity of Pike's Peak no one will deny or entertain a doubt but we would advise no man to abandon a lucrative business and go to Pike's Peak until further and more reliable information is disclosed.

The note of warning, however, went unheeded. In April of the same year, it was announced that "A company of eight or ten enterprising young men of this town and county depart on Monday next for Pike's Peak, all of whom are in excellent spirits. Our young friend George Clotfelter is to be one of the company." The Hillsboro editor, still doubtful about the Pike's Peak Eldorado, seized upon the following incident to verify his belief that the bubble of Pike's Peak gold had been blown to the point of bursting:

Just as we go to press a couple of robust yeomen passed the office driving four yoke of cattle, each hitched to a heavy ox wagon; one of them exclaiming as he gazed into the sanctum:

"There is not a d—d bit of gold in Pike's Peak for we have been thar."

And judging from their dusty habit we have no hesitation in saying that like many another poor devil, they have seen the "Elephant."

Life in the western gold fields was one of many hardships, according to a letter received in Hillsboro from A. G. Kelly, who on July 18, 1859, wrote from "Russel's Diggings, Forty Five Miles West of Denver City:"

The news is very discouraging. Every man from the mines gave a bad report which made things look rather "billous." Our company was told that we could get no employment at any price.

I would advise all the delicate to stay home, because none but working men make any money here. Tell the boys who expect to come here that they had better wait until Spring; then start early and bring feed for their teams. If they come this fall they must bring their winter's pro-

visions, or \$100 to buy them. St. Joseph, Mo., is the best starting point, and the Platte is the best route. Flour is worth \$17.50 per hundred pounds, bacon 35c per lb.; beef varies from 5 to 11c per lb.—11c for the best steak. Beans are \$6 a bushel, good molasses \$4 per gallon, and everything else in proportion. This is not a farming country and cannot be made so. Enclosed you will find the proceeds of one pan of dirt from our claim. This is all I have now; I washed it for the occasion that you might see the quality. I wish you would show it to Mary and tell her all is right with me. I would like to tell you something about the buffalo on the plains but I am tired of writing but will say that I saw more in one day than cattle in the states in six months. This looks unreasonable but it is true. I want to hear from my family; have had no letter since I left home. Please write on receipt of this.

• • •

After the Civil War (*see Bugle Calls*) residents resumed building up their city.

"On every side and from every quarter the sound of the hammer and the ringing of metal against hard brick indicate the advances being made by our citizens," said the Hillsboro newspaper on August 23, 1867. "The Clotfelter block has reached completion and the new Masonic hall is going up rapidly. Shimer has a two story house about finished, Ed Garflo has broken ground for a dwelling on Main Street, and Ed Burns is putting up a two story brick by Gunning's shop. Dr. Fink has commenced the excavation for a large brick south of Brewer's store."

J. E. Gay and John Egan made wagons, carriages, and buggies in their factory north of the courthouse. Louis Welge opened his furniture factory not far from the present filtration plant.

Charles Seymour purchased a machine for molding and pressing a superior quality of brick. The bricks from the new molding machine were said to be much better than those turned out by the old "slop made" method.

Food for hungry workmen was found at the Fulton House, one block west of the courthouse. The American House, on the site of the Odd Fellows' Building, offered



a table "spread with the best the market affords, and guests may depend upon hospitable treatment and beautiful cheer."

A bank for the deposit and exchange of funds had been opened before the war. A seven thousand pound safe, described as "mammoth," reached Hillsboro in October, 1858, and the *Montgomery Herald* announced:

We understand that the gentlemen, Davis, Haskell and Clark, intend to commence operation on the first of January next. A bank will be quite an accession to our town.

A millinery store, opened in March of the same year by a Mrs. Wright, drew the editorial comment that "The fair readers would be pleased to see the beautiful stock one door south of Dr. Haskell's drug store," and that "such an establishment had long been needed."

The Hillsboro Woolen Mills, started during the Civil War, did an extensive business in 1867 and 1868. They paid cash for wool or exchanged the raw product for "jeans, satinetts, flannels, and cassimers." In 1877, the mills—then located at the intersection of Vandalia Road and Vandalia Street—reported the purchase of 37,724 pounds of unwashed wool, 7,454 pounds of tub wool at \$10,972.46, the purchase of 1,000 cords of wood, the employment of 25 men, and the sale of 4,000 yards of jeans, 3,000 yards of flannel, 1,000 blankets, and 27,300 pounds of yarn.

Hillsboro was also well supplied with flour mills. In 1869, the Glenn Brothers, whose mill stood in the present Bremer Block opposite the Presbyterian Church, shipped 60 cars of flour, grain, and bran, and purchased \$1,600 worth of flour barrels. The Glenns were engaged in the milling business until 1895 when they sold their mill to John Henry Bremer. Gilmore and Nelson operated the old Cress Mill, one mile west of town. John Watson was another Hillsboro miller.

Fred Noterman, the first Hillsboro jeweler, kept a complete stock of fine watches, clocks, spectacles, and jewelry. Fritz Weingand's harness shop was one door south

of the Alex Cress store. M. L. Morehouse had a complete line of ornamental trees, fruit trees, and shrubbery.

Frank Huber and Daniel Lingofelter operated a brewery north of the old depot on Taylorville Road. The editor of the *Hillsboro Democrat* called attention to the liquor establishment but pointed out that his newspaper account was based entirely on reports that such a brewery existed, and not from a personal inspection of the place.

Rountree and Seymour let it be known that their store carried a "magnificent line of goods embracing ladies' and gentlemen's dress goods, groceries, hardware, and saddle-ry."

Doctors, dentists, and lawyers who advertised their services found the Hillsboro newspaper reciprocating with free publicity. Doctors Thomas Whitten, Thomas Washburn, L. F. Stoddard, J. F. Blackwelder, J. S. Hillis, J. B. Cary, and William Marshall were represented as "Physicians and surgeons who are decent men, patronizing the printer and doing good to the public." Dr. R. H. Rutledge was "busy with his dental instruments and doing good to the public." Children's teeth were extracted for twenty-five cents.

Physicians of Hillsboro and Montgomery County were already holding regular meetings of the county medical association. The first meeting of the association was held in Hillsboro on August 1, 1857. The doctors elected J. S. Hillis, president; J. Grinstead, vice-president; I. W. Fink, secretary, and T. D. Washburn, treasurer.

Dr. Edmund Douglas, the father of Miss Bess Douglas, was a druggist and physician who came to Hillsboro in 1873 and conducted a drug store for more than forty years. Other physicians who practiced in Hillsboro in the seventies and eighties were Dr. Samuel McLean, father of Ben McLean, Dr. P. S. Field, and Dr. W. W. Douglas, father of Doctors E. T. Douglas and W. S. Douglas.

Hillsboro lawyers—particularly, Truitt, Phillips, and Kitchell—were pictured by the Hillsboro newspaper of that



day as being "sharp, foxy fellows, some of them old coons in the business and beginning to grow gray with learning."

Edward Lane, admitted to the bar in 1864, practiced law in Hillsboro for many years. Amos Miller, an attorney since 1869, formed a partnership with Judge Rice in 1874. In 1871 he married Mary Rice, the Judge's daughter. Two children, Rice Miller and Mrs. H. O. Pinkerton, reside in Hillsboro. George Cooper began reading law in the office of Miller and Rice, and was admitted to the bar in 1880.

In 1885 the city council passed an ordinance prohibiting the repair of wooden awnings in front of store buildings on Main Street. The business men were a little concerned about the new ruling until Edward Lane took a case to court and won the right to add two feet to the wooden covering over his part of the sidewalk.

"They now sit under their own shade," reported the *Montgomery News*, "with no thought of removal to disturb them."

Roller skating was one of the most popular forms of recreation in the eighties. The rink over Walter's Hall was patronized by both young and old. Residents of Butler, Litchfield, and other towns in the county came to the Hillsboro rink to skate and to watch the masterful performances of Denny Lannigan, whose skill was known throughout the greater part of central Illinois. A newspaper account of 1885 reveals that the ladies of Hillsboro were greatly interested in the pastime:

Yesterday morning the ladies were seen going into Walter's Hall, singly and in small companies. The stream poured in so long that it attracted the attention of a stranger who asked, "Have you a religious revival in progress?" When asked "Why?," he said that he thought that preaching was being held at night and a ladies' prayer meeting in the morning. It happened to be "Ladies' Morning" at the rink.

While men and women were gliding around the skating rink, and merchants were looking with satisfaction upon their shaded wooden awnings, other Hillsboro citizens were

thinking about coal. The community had its wagon factories, furniture factories, flour mills, and woolen mills; but a few determined men persisted in believing that the town would have a coal mine. They furnished the most potent factor in the ultimate transformation of Hillsboro from a country town to a center of commercial and industrial activity.

Efforts to sink a shaft were first made near the old mineral springs in 1869. James R. Glenn, I. H. Shimer, I. W. Fink, and Wooten Harris formed a coal company and invited contributions to the needed funds. "We will state for the benefit of any who wish to subscribe," said the *Hillsboro Democrat* on March 25, 1869, "that the books will be found at the bank with Wooten Harris." While the unsuccessful test was being made, the somewhat skeptical editor wrote that while others were digging for coal, "he would stick to scribbling."

Although other attempts to promote a mine were made during the next decade, it was not until 1887, after the city of Hillsboro had discovered a vein of coal while boring for gas and oil, that an organization was perfected to finance the venture. A stockholders' meeting in February of that year elected as officers Wm. H. Brewer, Charles A. Ramsey, T. A. Paden, W. C. Miller, C. O. Brown, J. T. Maddux, and Amos Miller. R. L. Dingle of Troy, Illinois, signed a contract to begin construction of the mine.

Thursday, May 12, 1887 was a gala day in Hillsboro. Mr. Dingle was ready to break ground for the mine. All business houses closed their doors that afternoon, and a large delegation of carriages, wagons, and pedestrians, headed by Mayor S. H. McLean and the Silver Cornet Band, went to the site of the mine. Judge J. J. Phillips, in a brief address, predicted an era of industrial progress for Hillsboro. Other speakers included Col. Walter, Rev. Fr. Gesenhuer, and Charles Brown. William Brewer turned the first shovel of dirt.

With work started at the coal mine, Hillsboro took on the semblance of a boom town. The first creamery was built. The old American House, then owned by the city, was sold at a public auction; and title to the ground was conveyed to J. T. Maddux, W. A. Howett, Henry Scherer, Amos Miller, and Charles Ramsey upon their agreement to erect an opera house.

"The coal shaft is booming; the new opera house is booming; the creamery is booming—everything booms," announced the *Journal* on May 20, 1887.

In that same year the Hillsboro Mineral Springs were developed. A company for the promotion of the springs arranged a publicity campaign in which the Hillsboro band led early morning parades to the flowing waters south of Taylorville Road. There a photographer would be waiting to preserve evidence of the popularity of the springs.

That citizens from the neighboring town of Litchfield were in some doubt as to the value and purity of the Hillsboro waters is indicated by the *Hillsboro Journal* of June 24, which stated:

The waters of the Hillsboro Mineral Springs come from a depth of 85 feet and we believe that it is very pure water, notwithstanding the assertion of the wise doctor and the wise editor of the Litchfield Monitor. The Litchfield M. D. has probably found out that the water is benefiting his patients more than his medicine.

When workmen at the mine reached a 5-foot vein of coal on Thanksgiving Day, 1887, the people of Hillsboro once more felt the need of a celebration. The *Hillsboro Journal* selected its biggest type to proclaim that "The silver lining in Hillsboro's destiny is plainly visible."

Again the citizens assembled at the mine. Whistles blew, dynamite exploded, and the Silver Cornet Band played stirring numbers. The American flag floated over the first wagon load of coal taken from the mine. Headed by the band and the load of coal, the long line marched to the courthouse. When the procession reached the public

square, Col. Walter mounted the wagon and announced that the coal would be sold to the highest bidder. J. R. Glenn ran the bid to \$150 and then gave the load of coal back to the coal company, which in turn donated it to the *Hillsboro Journal* and the *Montgomery News*.

With a coal mine in operation, and other industries springing up, Hillsboro began to think about its water supply. Wells, and the big spring at Central Park, furnished all the city water; but during a hot, dry August in 1887 when every one looked for rain, the dusty streets had to go without their summer sprinkling. "What a blessing a water-works would be right now," sighed the *Hillsboro Journal*.

In 1888 the old spring was enlarged and a pumping station built to throw water into Hillsboro's first water tank. The city council fixed the following rates:

Dwelling house, one faucet, \$4 00 per year.  
Bath, one tub, \$10.  
Bank, one faucet, \$7.  
Barber shops, first chair, \$5.

With the installation of a water system, the council drafted an ordinance requiring all members of the Volunteer Fire Department to meet once each month and to have "public drill once each year."

The volunteer firefighters had some difficulty with their hose cart when the old Empire Mill on Vawter Street burned in 1896.

According to an account of the *Montgomery News*,

The hose was unreeled at the corner of the city hall and had to be carried the rest of the way by the men. The tool box had been taken off the cart and not replaced and the boys found they had no wrench or nozzle to make the connection. A second trip had to be made for the missing articles and that consumed considerable time; but when the boys did get ready, they did splendid work.

The Hillsboro Electric Light and Power Company was incorporated in 1893 by J. J. Frey, A. M. Howell, William Wurdack, H. H. Humphrey, and Charles Lampel.

A building on Broad Street was erected by Frank Frarer and James Lewis; Quince Summers was employed as plant engineer, and Hillsboro's first electric lights went into service on the night of October 30, 1893. The initial contract with the light company and the city of Hillsboro called for eighteen arc lights. McHenry's hardware store advertised an electric doorbell that "can be installed any place in your home for \$3.50."

The telegraph office, managed by C. A. Rolston, had a telephone in 1887, but it was not until two years after the advent of electric lights that the Montgomery County Telephone Company was formed. Jack Finley, superintendent of construction for forty-three years, set the first poles in 1895 and in a short time the town boasted twenty-five telephones. The first telephone exchange, in a room over Shaner's store, was operated by Grace Moore, Etta Stookey, and Mrs. Mattie Rush.

In 1904, while the Kortkamp brothers were adding another shaft to the Hillsboro field, the city increased its water supply by erecting a dam on Seward Street and forming a lake that covered all of Central Park. The lake proved so attractive for boating that there was talk of organizing a boat club. Owners of the lake craft at that time were Edward Taulbee, Charlie McDavid, Joe Jones, Harry Blockburger, Doss Williams, Larkin Starr, Sam Little, Clint Bliss, Chester Dreyhus, Walter Clotfelter, and Otto Bremer.

In the fall of 1905, A. L. Schram came to establish a fruit jar factory near Hillsboro. Work on the buildings began in January, 1906, and before the end of the year the plant employed two hundred persons and manufactured more than 45,000 fruit jars daily.

In 1906 the Hillsboro fire department went to Peoria for foot races with the Peoria firemen. Those who made the trip were Charles McHenry, Tom Angerstein, Jesse Criswell, Guy Spangler, Earl Risk, Laverne Haag, Fred Welge, George Angerstein, Claude Klar, Harry Wilton,

Bob Gilmore, and Jack Miller. In the same year on May 5, the Litchfield-Hillsboro electric line began service. The cars ran every two hours and were reported to be "loaded to the guards."

Hillsboro's streets were still deep with mud. During the spring thaws, horses sank to their knees and wagons to the axles. In October of 1906 a force of 125 men and 25 teams began preliminary work for paving. The following month thirty Negroes arrived to lay brick on Wood Street.

A Hillsboro resident, E. B. Hess, purchased a ten horsepower Maxwell automobile in St. Louis and spent seven hours on the drive to Hillsboro. He was congratulated on the ease with which he controlled the machine. In 1908 George Brown, Jr., sold Buicks, and J. L. McDavid was agent for the Regal and the Rambler.

The first night baseball game was played June 26, 1906, when the visiting Cherokee Indians met the Hillsboro Blues. Horse racing was popular during this period and John Crabtree's race track southwest of Hillsboro was a busy place. His famous pacers, "Lady Maude C." and "Hedgewood Boy" were beginning to attract nationwide attention. Moving picture shows were known as "Electric Theaters." Ed Fellis, Sr., exhibited 2,000 feet of film at the popular prices of five and ten cents. And D. D. Goad, veteran merchant, drew crowds to his grocery store with such newspaper advertising as:

Enjoy the best there is in Life,  
The money saved today  
Will never buy asbestos clothes  
Or wings on judgment day.

A third coal mine was opened at Taylor Springs in 1908, and although the peak of Hillsboro's industrial development was not reached until several years later, it was coal that served as the catalytic agent in this development. Over in Missouri lay great fields of zinc ore. Since smelting required proportionately more coal than zinc ore, smel-



ters were usually established near the fuel supply, thereby effecting an economy in freight costs. In 1911 construction was begun on two smelters, one for the American Zinc Company, at Taylor Springs; the other, the Lanyon Smelter, later absorbed by the Eagle Picher Company, on land purchased from H. S. Hargrave and F. H. Brown. Payrolls for Hillsboro industries soared to more than \$100,000 a month, and several hundred houses went up in Taylor Springs, Hillsboro, and Schram City. Both the Hillsboro Brick and Tile Company and the Southern Illinois Light and Power Company spent large sums on improvements and new construction. From Waverly came J. A. Wibe, who erected several greenhouses, later taken over by B. B. Pohlman. The city itself laid sidewalks, paved streets, and built a bridge on School Street. Within a few short years, coal changed Hillsboro from a quiet country town to a fledgling industrial center.

The boomlet lasted for a decade and a half, with the smelters, coal mines, and glass factory running at full capacity. But shortly after the war the lead and zinc markets slumped, and eventually the payrolls of the smelters were cut in half. The reduction in the smelters hit the local coal mines hard, because the general demand for coal was also beginning to slacken. On October 15, 1923, Superintendent H. C. Perry announced that the Taylor Springs mine would be sealed. The following year the Kortkamp mine shut down and altogether more than 300 miners left in search of other employment.

Construction of two state highways, State 16 in 1925 and State 127 in 1928, absorbed some of the surplus Hillsboro labor, but many miners were still without steady employment. In 1933 the American Legion suggested the plan of "script money."

PWA and WPA projects have offered some solution to the unemployment problem in the community. A \$100,000 sewage disposal plant and the Central Park swimming pool were completed in 1936 under the administration of

Mayor H. J. Yoffie. Improvements to parks, public buildings and city streets are now being made. And there is some indication of an upswing in Hillsboro industries, particularly the smelters.

City officials, Hillsboro men, and Hillsboro women have met the depression years with the same unwavering faith that existed in 1821 when the county commissioners, faced with an empty treasury, ordered the clerk to pay the first bill "just as soon as he gets some money in his hands."





## *A Tall Gaunt Man*

HALF WAY DOWN MAIN STREET stands an old pine tree which is believed to be the oldest living thing in town. An aged resident of Montgomery County, a ninety-four-year old Civil War veteran, told this story shortly before his death:

When I was a young man, I went to Hillsboro to attend the Academy where I also had a job with Dr. Hillis. His office was not far from the old pine tree and on warm nights, while waiting for the doctor to come in from visits to the sick, I would sleep out in the yard under the tree. At that time the tree was fully grown. Main Street was just a country lane, dusty in summer, and hub deep with mud in winter. This old tree has seen Main Street change into one of the busiest thoroughfares in the county. It has seen schools and churches spring up, and generations come and go. It must have seen a tall gaunt man on horseback riding slowly along on his way from Springfield to the Capitol building at Vandalla.

Abraham Lincoln frequently stopped in Hillsboro and vicinity. The old Seward farm, on State 127 south of Butler, was a combination inn and stage stand where travelers refreshed themselves and stage drivers replaced tired horses with fresh ones for the stage run. George Seward used to

point out one of the rooms where Lincoln slept. He said Lincoln drove up one evening in an old rattle-trap buggy with a hole in the dashboard through which one of his long legs was sticking, and without saying a word got out and began to unhitch his horse. Another favorite stopping place was the Blockburger Inn, which stood at the corner of Main and Tillson streets.

Newspaper accounts of Lincoln furnish interesting sidelights on the political situation when Lincoln and Stephen Douglas were making speeches in Illinois. Of the appearance of Judge Douglas in Hillsboro on August 2, 1858, the *Montgomery Herald* said:

Above the fairground gate entrance was fastened a canvas on one side of which was printed "The Union can exist half slave and half free," and on the reverse side was "Douglas, the champion of popular Sovereignty." The crowd continued to pour in at one o'clock headed by the brass band and proceeded to the grounds through a cloud of dust that was almost suffocating. James M. Davis made a few remarks and gave way for the speech of Mr. Rice in the reception of Mr. Douglas. Mr. Douglas then addressed the people for about an hour and a half. We have heard his speech both praised and ridiculed.

An excerpt from *The Herald* of September 3 of the same year calls attention to Lincoln's speech:

Our readers are well aware of the day Mr. Lincoln is to address the people of Hillsboro, namely the 9th inst. . . . It will also be seen that the same day has been chosen for the exhibition of Spaulding and Rodger's Circus. We learn that an arrangement has been made by which Mr. Lincoln is to speak inside the canvas of the circus at 1½ o'clock P. M.

The *Montgomery County Herald*, previously edited by John W. Kitchell, an editor neutral in politics, was sold in September, 1858, to A. N. Kingsbury. In the issue of September 10, Kingsbury came out in favor of Douglas. The following story of Lincoln's address in Hillsboro reflects the new editor's loyalty to the Little Giant:

At Hillsboro on the 9th, Mr. Lincoln devoted the greater

portion of his speech in proving that the Dred Scott decision placed it beyond the power of the people in the territories to exclude slavery therefrom. Mr. Lincoln asserted here in Hillsboro that "there is a physical difference between the Negro and the white man, that would forever prevent them from living together in a state of social and political equality." This decision is in direct conflict with a part of the gentleman's Chicago speech in which he said "Let us discard all these things and unite as one people throughout the land, until we shall once more stand up and declare that all men are created equal." In contrast with the above we place the declaration from Mr. Lincoln's Hillsboro speech. We understand that Mr. Lincoln is instructed to declare at Jonesboro "that a Negro is no better than a horse." The graduating scale from Chicago to Jonesboro will then be complete according to the latitude.

And on November 12, 1858, Mr. Kingsbury wrote that "Old Abe has become extinguished, and the star of Douglas shines brightly, and in 1860 we intend to make him President."

John M. Whitehead in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* gives a delightful picture of Lincoln and Douglas in Hillsboro:

In the Lincoln-Douglas campaign both men made speeches in Hillsboro. As I remember, Mr. Lincoln spoke in September. There was a circus in town that day and the committee having charge of the Lincoln meeting chartered the "Big Top" and Mr. Lincoln delivered his speech from the circus wagons. The reason for this was the rain. I remember him standing in the wagon in the circus ring. My father had taken me in the forenoon to the place, the old lyceum, where other citizens had congregated to meet Mr. Lincoln, so I had a very distinct impression of him which has remained with me all my life.

My father used to tell of the first speech he heard Mr. Lincoln make in the old log courthouse at Hillsboro. A political meeting was being held and one of the well known men of the day was talking. At the conclusion of his speech a call for Mr. Lincoln came from the crowd. Presently a tall, awkward, homespun sort of a young man began to make his way to the front. He finally reached the desired position and proceeded to make a speech. The time was "wayback yonder," perhaps in one of the exciting campaigns of the 40's.

The *Sangamo Journal* of July 25, 1844, verifies the courthouse speech of Lincoln with: "delegates from Sanga-

mon county to the mass convention, left this city on Monday morning of last week, were treated with the utmost hospitality going and coming. Delegation escorted into Hillsborough and the citizens assembled at the courthouse. Addresses were made by Judge Robbins, Mr. Lincoln and Dr. Anson G. Henry."

Writing in the *Illinois State Journal* of Lincoln's message in 1858, a Hillsboro resident who signed his name "Absalom" said: "It continued to rain a perfect torrent during the whole time of the speaking. The seats and pits were packed full of men who hoisted their umbrellas and stood until the last word was heard. At the close, cheer after cheer was given and a thousands hats were thrown into the air in token of the principles and soul of our own Abe Lincoln."

The letter from Absalom drew the ire of editor Kingsbury, who wrote on September 24, 1858:

Lincoln's contortions and grimaces did create some laughing among the children and boys because they thought it a part of the circus. A special committee on cheering had been appointed, composed of fifteen persons, and they joined in manfully and appeared to enjoy the antics of their champion as much as the boys.

Continuing his recollections of Lincoln and Douglas Mr. Whitehead wrote:

There were a number of citizens of Hillsboro who were life long acquaintances of Mr. Lincoln. Joseph T. Eccles was a Kentuckian of the fine old type who had known Mr. Lincoln from his youth up and was one of his trusted advisers in this part of the country. I remember one cold Sunday morning at the Presbyterian church I went to Sunday School and there were gathered around the stove Mr. Eccles and others who were interested in what he had to say about his visit to Washington from which he had just returned.

I remember my father asked Mr. Eccles if "Old Abe" knew him. Mr. Eccles had a very heavy voice and a prolonged chuckle when he laughed. He laughed and said, "Know me? I guess he did. He took care of me at the White House in the old fashioned way." I do not recall all the details of the conversation except that Mr. Eccles was

extremely pleased with his visit to Washington and with the President.

The Judge of the Circuit Court was E. Y. Rice, a Kentuckian of the old school, who had been long acquainted with Mr. Lincoln and associated with him in professional activities, though opposed in politics.

The village tavern stood two blocks from my father's home where all the lawyers were wont to put up when they came to Hillsboro to the term of court. I remember distinctly many times seeing the members of the bar sitting out on the porch or in the street with their feet propped up against posts swapping stories, and Lincoln was often among the number. Among these lawyers were General John M. Palmer, U. F. Linder, Anthony Thorton and many others.

Mr. Douglas, when he spoke in Hillsboro, spoke briefly from the roof of the tavern porch and he could be distinctly heard at my father's home. He had a marvelous voice. His principal speech was made in the afternoon at the Fairgrounds.

On the morning that the news came of Mr. Lincoln's death, I was going with my father and the rest of the family from our farm west of town to Hillsboro to attend the funeral of a relative whose body was coming in on the morning train from the southwest. One of our neighbors was on his way home wearing the blue swallow tail coat with brass buttons, buff vest and silk hat of the style then worn by the old fashioned gentlemen. He stopped and told us the news of the President's death. His name was Mr. Cory. He had been a life long Democrat and politically opposed to Lincoln but his voice was thick and his whole frame shook with emotion. My father whipped up his horses and hurried on into town hoping against hope that later news would not bear out the earlier reports of the morning that the President was dead; but alas, the daily papers came in from St. Louis about the middle of the day and we had to know that the President's earthly career was ended.

There was a meeting at the Presbyterian church the following Sunday evening to commemorate the life and public service of Mr. Lincoln. The old fashioned church was packed to the doors. There was some formality in the opening of the meeting but presently the opportunity was given to any to speak from where he sat in the congregation. No experience in my childhood stands out more distinctly in my memory than my recollection of that wonderful meeting. One after another, the old men arose, some with tears streaming down their faces, and with trembling voices expressed their love and admiration for the dead president and more particularly for the man whom they had known so familiarly for so many years.

I particularly remember the remarks of Mr. Stickel, one of the guests in our home on the date when Mr. Lincoln spoke in the circus tent.

On the day of Mr. Lincoln's funeral in Springfield business was generally suspended in Hillsboro. Public services were held in one of the churches and the people came from far and near to show their respect for the great dead. It has always been a matter of deep regret to me that I was not required by my parents to accompany them to the memorial services. Some childish whim beset my mind and I did not care to go and I was not required to go; and so all my life I have felt a sense of loss on this account.

There was a very bitter partisanship in our part of the state. Many bitter things were said after Mr. Lincoln's death which resulted in the severance of lifelong friendships and business relations, but there is no part of the country with which I am familiar where the memory of Abraham Lincoln is today more tenderly cherished than in Montgomery county.





## *Bugle Calls*

THE FIRST ARMED CONFLICT in which the citizens of Hillsboro were called upon to take part was the Black Hawk War of 1832. Two companies responded, one commanded by Dr. Levi Boone, the other by Hiram Rountree. The war ended with the capture of Black Hawk; but the plight of the Hillsboro men upon reaching the designated place of assembly at Peru, LaSalle County, is revealed in a letter written by Captain Rountree to the governor of Illinois:

These men, after coming a distance of two hundred miles from home, are without provisions, and there are none in the immediate country even if they had the means of buying. This note is drafted to know of Your Excellency, and that immediately, what the men are to depend on. As regards myself, I shall never complain, but the condition in which the company is placed, demands immediate attention. Their crops for the season are lost, and they are in debt for their preparation to defend their country.

Governor Reynolds, who was personally acquainted with many of the Hillsboro volunteers, promptly ordered provisions and equipment for Captain Rountree's soldiers.

In the Mexican War a company of ninety-six men commissioned by James McAdams, Thomas Rhodes, and John Corlew joined a regiment commanded by Colonel



Foreman of Vandalia. Fierce fighting for two years, hunger, and disease thinned the ranks of the company. An old Hillsboro newspaper contains the following:

Do you remember the gallant company of 96 men who left Montgomery county? Do you remember the gathering at Woodsboro, on the day of the departure when the fifes and drums were playing, and there were tears in the eyes of almost every man and woman? Do you remember that out of 96 gallant men, only forty-five returned to tell the fate of their comrades?

The peace that followed the Mexican War was of short duration. The approach of the sixties found the nation in a state of excitement and bitterness over the questions of slavery and secession. A hint of preparedness and mobilization was evident in 1859. The *Montgomery Herald* reported the formation of a Hillsboro "Independent Light Guard Infantry" at a meeting held in the courthouse June 24. R. W. Davis was chosen captain, Jesse J. Phillips, first lieutenant, E. T. Sammons, second lieutenant, W. F. Armstrong, third lieutenant, and R. N. Paden, sergeant.

"We are glad to see the organization of such a company, as the cultivation of the martial spirit is desirable," wrote the *Herald*. "The Sergeant will doubtless be mistaken for the Captain as he bears a striking resemblance to the 'Iron Duke.'"

The roll of drums and the notes of bugles soon brought men from all parts of the county, and the first Independent Light Guard company was absorbed by regimental organizations. The Ninth Illinois Infantry, one of Hillsboro's first regiments, was commanded by Col. J. J. Phillips. Commissioned officers of Company C were Jacob Miller, A. J. Shelton, and George Short.

Other units summoned for military service were Company B of the One Hundred and Seventeenth Infantry, in command of Robert McWilliams, Frank Gilmore, and George Potter; the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry, with Daniel Munn as adjutant; the One Hun-

dred and Forty-third Infantry, with James G. Seward, William Truesdell, and George Fowler as officers, and the First Illinois Cavalry, staffed by Capt. Paul Walter, Isaac Skillman, and Morgan Blair.

Company after company was formed from Hillsboro and Montgomery County to replace casualties of the Union Army. Finally came the news of Lee's surrender and the end of the war. The Hillsboro newspaper of April 14, 1865, reported:

A big celebration was held at the courthouse and speeches were made by Rev. G. A. Adams, James R. Glenn, Solomon Harkey, and L. G. Brown. After the speeches the meeting adjourned with three cheers for General Grant. All were pleased with the performance and went home satisfied that the Union was safe.

From the survivors of the northern forces came the Grand Army of the Republic, which Henry Berry of Hillsboro helped to organize at Decatur on April 6, 1866, and from which grew the F. D. Hubbell Post No. 403. Only one member of this post is still living, John M. Woods of Butler.

The Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary of the G. A. R., was formed in Hillsboro on March 13, 1888, with the following officers: Mrs. Minnie Walsh, Mrs. Jennie Truitt, Mrs. Lucy Tyler, Mrs. Jennie Glenn, Mrs. Bettie Sammons, Mrs. Mary Rolston, Mrs. Addie Armstrong, Mrs. Mattie Haynes, Mrs. Elizabeth Ramsey, and Mrs. Mary Boone.

In the Spanish-American War of 1898 most of the Hillsboro men who served went into Company E, Fifth Illinois Infantry. Company E left for Springfield on April 26, 1898, under the command of Captain W. A. Howett and Lieutenants W. K. Hays and Ezra Chacey. When the Hillsboro volunteers left Springfield for Chickamauga, Georgia, their officers were Captain A. E. Hardy, James Grimes, and Ezra Chacey.

Company E remained in Hillsboro several years after

the war, drilling in the armory over the present J. O. Brown Store. The company was later transferred to Macomb, Illinois, but shortly before the outbreak of the World War in 1917, the Hillsboro unit was reorganized and recruited to full strength. Although war had not been officially declared, the Hillsboro soldiers left for guard duty at Cairo and Thebes on Saturday, March 31, 1917. The *Hillsboro Journal* of April 3, announced:

A long blast of the city's siren at nine o'clock Friday morning carried the news that Hillsboro's Company E and the county soldiers had received orders to depart for duty. Cheered by two thousand voices singing patriotic airs, they left Saturday morning by Big Four for Cairo and Thebes.

Captains L. A. Tuggle of Danville and Charles Hill of Hillsboro were in command when the company left for guard duty. Majors G. A. Clotfelter and E. T. Douglas commanded medical units. Lieutenant Pryor King, held in Hillsboro for recruiting duty, rejoined the Hillsboro unit and it sailed for France on May 10, 1918. The Hillsboro battalions, after serving with valor on several front-line sectors, returned to Hillsboro on May 30, 1919. Luther McLain and Ray Chandler, for whom the McLain-Chandler American Legion Post is named, were among the many Hillsboro and Montgomery County men who lost their lives in the World War.

Hundreds of men enlisted in the army, navy, and marine corps; and many women entered the military nursing service. Other Hillsboro persons at home assisted in draft registration, Liberty Loan drives, and in Red Cross work.



## *Old Settlers' Day*

OLD SETTLERS' DAY at Hillsboro is an annual attraction for thousands of visitors from all parts of Montgomery County, and the surrounding countryside. It is a day for parades and carnival entertainment, for soda pop and dancing. It offers a home-coming and reunion for the older people, and a parade of floats for both young and old. Indeed, a St. Louis newspaper reporter once wrote: "Old Settlers' Day at Hillsboro has come to be that gala day of the year when Old Age is literally swamped in waves of Youth."

The local holiday grew out of the old county fair, which started in 1854. Year after year, men and women came to the fair at Hillsboro to see and to be seen; to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones. The women brought jellies, jams, cakes and cookies, quilts and fancy work, and other products of their domestic skill. The men took part in contests, entered their fine horses for exhibition, or hitched them to heavily-loaded wagons to test their pulling powers. The track where horses raced at the county fairs is still to be seen on the campus of the Junior High School.

On September 25, 1883, during the county fair, a lit-

the band of pioneers got together and formed the first official Old Settlers' Association. The *Montgomery News* of that date reported:

The Hillsboro band at the log cabin discoursed some music and at the south side of the cabin the meeting was called to order with a prayer by Rev. A. J. Williford. The old settlers were called upon to sign the constitution and pay twenty-five cents to become members. Seventy-four signed. Officers elected were: Solomon Harkey, president, William Bowles and Samuel Paisley, vice president; J. T. Maddux, secretary; M. S. Gowin, assistant secretary; T. J. Rutledge, treasurer. The meeting will be held hereafter at the log cabin, on the first Tuesday of the county fair.

Some of the charter members of the first Old Settlers' Association were residents of Montgomery County before Hillsboro was selected as the county seat in 1823. Others came to Hillsboro and vicinity during the early thirties and forties. Among the earliest inhabitants of the Fillmore community, south and east of Hillsboro, were: Harris Reavis, Henry Pyatt, John Levi, and Aaron Casey, John and Henry Hill, William McDavid, Easton Whitten, James Card, John Russell, Jacob Bost, and Peter Cress.

Among the first residents to settle the Shoal Creek area, south and west of Hillsboro were: William Clark, Jarvis Forehand, John McPhail, Luke Steel, David Killpatrick, Jesse Townsend, Melcher Fogleman, Joseph McAdams, and many others whose names have disappeared from the records of that day.

Hiram Rountree, sometimes called the "Father of Montgomery County," made the Hillsboro community his home from 1820 until his death in 1873. For more than forty years he served the county in some official capacity. As county clerk he was called upon to make many decisions concerning the business of the county. One August morning in 1837 he received the following letter:

Dear Sir:

Please to send me to pare of shoes and take my services as clerk in August, 1836, and you will be much o'blige.

The records reveal that the county owed three dollars to the writer of the letter. In keeping with the spirit of co-operation of those days, county clerk Rountree probably arranged to send the shoes and mark the account paid.

John Tillson, first postmaster and first county treasurer, opened a store in Hillsboro in 1825 and erected the first brick house, on the northwest corner of Main and Tremont streets. Mr. and Mrs. Tillson, who lived in Hillsboro until 1837, were active in religious and civic affairs. They were responsible for the foundation of the Hillsboro Academy and the first Presbyterian church. Mrs. Tillson, a well educated woman, later gave to the public *A Woman's Story of Pioneer Illinois*, in which she vividly related her early life in Hillsboro.

The Whittens, an old Kentucky family which included Easton, Elisha, Josiah, and Austin, settled in the Hurricane neighborhood as early as 1817. Easton Whitten, Sr., represented Montgomery County when the legislature convened at Vandalia and later at Springfield.

Dr. Levi Boone, one of the first physicians of the county, was an intelligent man of the old Daniel Boone stock. He led a company from Hillsboro during the Black Hawk War.

Wesley Seymour came to Hillsboro in 1825. His son, William, was educated in the Hillsboro Academy, and married Miss Elizabeth Christian. Their children were Dr. H. A. Seymour, Mrs. Sumner Kilpatrick, Dr. J. B. Seymour, and W. L. Seymour.

Joseph McAdams settled on a farm southwest of Hillsboro, where he reared a family of nine sons and three daughters. He served as the first coroner of Montgomery County and at his home the first courts were held.

The McDavid family came from Tennessee in 1819. The first William McDavid settled six miles south of Hillsboro on a creek and point of land which took the name "Mc-



David's Point." The entire family were members of the Presbyterian Church.

Judge William Brewer came to Hillsboro in 1839. He was the first Whig ever elected to office in this county. In 1850 he was elected to the legislature and served two terms.

David Killpatrick, of Irish descent, was one of the first mathematicians of the county. He was frequently elected to office. Many of his descendants, the Killpatricks, the Littles, and the Helstons, still live in the vicinity of Hillsboro.

The older residents of Hillsboro remember hearing of "Uncle Joe" and "Aunt Jane" Eccles, who came to Hillsboro in the forties. "Uncle Joe" was a soldier in the Black Hawk War, and a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1847. The Eccles family entertained Abraham Lincoln in their home on the corner of Berry and Water streets.

Israel Seward and his wife, "Aunt Peggy," had a farm on the brow of the hill half-way between Butler and Hillsboro. Their place was a stage and mail stop on the Vandalia-Springfield route.

The five Clotfelter brothers, Amos, Lee, William, D. Stokes and James, and their sister Zilpha, were North Carolinians who left their home state March 1, 1833, with their parents and journeyed to Montgomery county. Their descendants are among the best-known citizens of the Hillsboro neighborhood.

John T. Maddux settled in Hillsboro in 1836. First mayor of Hillsboro, he was active in many community enterprises. In 1860 he married Mary F. Sammons.

Col. Paul Walter, farmer and horse fancier, came to Montgomery County from North Carolina in 1839. He was one of the original "forty-niners" and spent six years in the California gold fields, where he made a modest fortune. He was an officer in Company E, First Illinois Cavalry, in the Civil War. Two daughters, Miss Susan Walter



and Mrs. Stella D. Downing, reside in Hillsboro.

Capt. Thomas Phillips, a soldier in the Black Hawk War, lived in Hillsboro for many years. His wife was the former Miss Jane Roberts of Kentucky. Judge Jesse J. Phillips, one of the supreme court justices of the state, was their son.

E. Y. Rice, the son of a minister, came to Hillsboro in 1845, after having studied law with John M. Palmer in Carlinville. In 1849 he married Susan R. Coudy and two children were born, Mrs. Amos Miller and James E. Y. Rice. He served as recorder of deeds, county judge, circuit judge, and, in 1873, as a member of Congress.

George W. Brown, Sr., arrived in Hillsboro from Ohio in 1836. His son George, Jr., attended the old academy, and for a number of years was engaged in the implement and hardware business in Hillsboro and in Butler. On January 4, 1865, he married Henrietta Judson and they became the parents of six children; James, Mrs. W. A. White, Charles, Frank, Louis, and Roland.

Descendants of the Cress families are well-known in Hillsboro. Jacob Cress, who in 1840 married a daughter of Rev. David Scherer, pioneer Lutheran minister, reared a large family. Absalom Cress and his wife, the former Catherine Fogleman, were among the earliest settlers in the county. They were the grandparents of H. A. Cress, Sr.

Amos Sawyer, a native of Boston, moved to Hillsboro in 1842. It is said that he had a house built in Boston, shipped by river to St. Louis, and transported by teams to Hillsboro. His son, A. A. K. Sawyer, a Hillsboro merchant for many years, married a daughter of Judge Brewer. Miss Nellie Sawyer, a granddaughter of Amos Sawyer, lives in Hillsboro.

The old log cabin of the first gathering of old settlers is gone, and the original old settlers have been dead for many years, but the spirit of Old Settlers' Day carries on one day each year, from the old west part of town, up through Main Street, from early morning until late at night.



## *School and Churches, Clubs and Culture*

IN THE FALL OF 1825 the first log school house was built on the brow of the hill overlooking the natural spring which still gushes forth in Central Park—the same spring discovered by Mrs. Nussman.

This school house was used for all public assemblies, including religious meetings. It was built of scalped logs, with the cracks chinked with mud. The floor was of puncheons, the benches of split logs. The site was surrounded by forest trees and hazel thickets, furnishing sufficient protection for horses as well as switches for the unruly. Hiram Rountree described the early means of education as follows:

In the early days, it must be remembered that schools were private institutions and that each parent felt it his duty to raise and educate his own family, at his own expense, and consequently he felt it to be his interest, as well as his duty to see that proper teachers were employed and that they gave their pupils proper instruction; to see that the teachers taught the pupils not only what was to be found in books, but also how to behave in the world.

One of the earliest teachers in Hillsboro was Nancy Crum-

ba who was a sister of the first wife of David B. Jackson, pioneer resident of Hillsboro. Girls were sent to her from Vandalla, Carlyle, and Edwardville, so that she might put the finishing touches to the education they had received at home.

It was a custom with Miss Crumba, that each scholar, on entering the school room should, if a boy, gracefully remove his hat, make a silent bow—first to the teacher and then to the rest of the school; or if a girl, should make a gentle graceful "curtsy," and such was the usual difference of obsequence of the sexes in that day and generation.

Many good and useful teachers were to be found in Hillsboro teaching private schools or classes, from the time our town was founded in 1823 until 1836, the year our people united their purposes together in a private way and built what was then esteemed a truly magnificent building, the Hillsboro Academy.

However, private schools flourished to some extent for several years after the building of the Academy. The *Montgomery Herald* of October 11, 1857, announced that "Miss Eunice Clark would respectfully inform the citizens of this place that she is still engaged in teaching at the Frank Dixon place. Terms: Reading & Spelling, \$2.50 per quarter, Arithmetic & Geography, \$3.00 per quarter." On January 2, of the following year, the same publication reported that Prof. W. D. Gunning would resume the charge of his high school in the basement of the Lutheran Church.

In March, 1880, Miss Maggie Beck advertised that she would teach a "select school" in the basement of the Lutheran church, commencing the first Monday in May and continuing for ten weeks with "Tuition \$2 to \$3 per term." In addition to the regular studies, instruction was given in fancy work and plain sewing.

The Academy opened in November, 1837. John Tillson gave freely of his time and money, both in the erection of the building and in the securing of excellent teachers for the staff. He brought from the East the first superintendent, Isaac Wetherell, his wife, who served as an associate teacher, Professor Edward Wyman, and Miss Elizabeth Hadley, instructor of instrumental music.

In 1846 the name of the Academy was changed to the Lutheran College, although it continued to be referred to as the Hillsboro College, or Academy. In 1852, the Lutherans, seeking a larger center of population for their school, moved it to Springfield. Finding inadequate support at Springfield, they eventually moved the institution to Carthage, where it has since been known as Carthage College. But the Academy continued to receive students, and no other school building was erected in Hillsboro until the free (Winhold) school was constructed in 1861.

After the introduction of the free school system, it became increasingly difficult to maintain the Academy on a sound financial basis. According to the *News* of October 4, 1867, the Academy was operated on a year by year basis:

Notwithstanding the fact that it was not known till nearly the middle of the month that there would be exercises in the Academy this year, there are now enrolled in the institution upward of forty students. Three fifths of the number are young men over eighteen years of age. A certain number, both young gentlemen and young ladies, have made known the fact that they will enter the Academy in a short time. The Academy is located in one of the most pleasant parts of town. It is certainly encouraging to know that here in our home institution, classes have been organized in Latin, Greek, Algebra, Geometry, Milton's Paradise Lost and Natural Philosophy.

The year 1880 marked the end of Hillsboro's only college. The *News* of March 12, 1880, stated:

The Academy closed last Friday and its principal, Prof. F. H. Helsell, left Monday for Odebolt, Iowa. He claims to have lost money while teaching in the Academy, the receipts not being sufficient to meet the current expenses.

The other school officials and citizens of Hillsboro did not give up without a fight. Immediately after the departure of Professor Helsell, the trustees announced that "Miss Emma Cromer would teach a select school at the Academy for a term of twelve weeks. Tuition for children, \$5.00 per term, Advanced students, \$8 per term." But the Academy failed to open in 1881, and eventually

the building was moved to another part of town and converted into a barn. In its last days its walls, which had once heard learned professors expound the classics and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, echoed to the grunting of pigs and the lowing of cattle.

The public school system of Hillsboro also encountered financial difficulties. When the term opened in the fall of 1858, under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Douhit, formerly of Shelbyville, the *Montgomery Herald* commented:

We understand that they are efficient teachers and that their services are engaged for six months. We are also informed that there are funds now in the treasury to keep the school up nearly that length of time.

The building of a new school house was looked upon by many citizens as an unnecessary expenditure. Although the Winhold school was talked of in 1858, a tax "for the purpose of building a common school house," was defeated on July 10 of that year by a 68-40 vote.

"We have not built even one school for the establishment of a free school," said the *Montgomery Herald*, "and have kept up a free school only part of the time. The Academy has been used hitherto for the purpose, but it does not accommodate the upper portion of the town."

Through the perseverance of the directors, A. H. H. Rountree, J. T. Eccles, and William Witherspoon, and through the interest of other Hillsboro residents, the North School was erected in 1861. The building was later renamed in honor of Miss Mary Winhold, who taught in the Hillsboro schools from 1860 until 1897, when ill health forced her resignation.

The same year in which the electorate voted down the construction of a free school, the teachers of Montgomery County asked for a meeting of all instructors interested in organizing a "Teachers' Institute." On Saturday morning, October 23, 1858, teachers from town and rural schools met

at the Academy and held Montgomery County's first Teachers' Institute.

The High School was organized in 1881. Since the Academy had closed its doors, the old building was rented for school purposes until 1888, when the new Edison School was ready for occupancy. The need of a separate building for high school purposes became more acute each year. In 1904 land was purchased from Arthur Kinkead, and work begun on the present Junior High School. The building, erected by F. M. Garthwait, contractor for the Hillsboro Library, was to have been completed by October 15, but some delay was experienced and the students moved into their new home in December, after holding school for a few weeks in the basement of the Presbyterian Church.

In 1912 the school board found it necessary to enlarge the Edison School, and four more rooms were added to the east side. In May, 1915, the Hillsboro firm of Johnsey and Nichols was awarded a contract to build another school, and in the following year, Burbank, named in honor of the scientist, Luther Burbank, was ready for Hillsboro's growing school population.

The new high school (*see Points of Interest*) was begun in 1920 and occupied in the fall of the following year.

Many persons have contributed to the success of the Hillsboro schools. H. J. Beckemeyer, superintendent of the grade schools, came to Hillsboro as a teacher in 1910. George Girhard, principal of the community high school, has been here since 1913. Walter F. Grotts, with his office in Hillsboro, is serving his second term as county superintendent of schools.

The Parent-Teacher Associations, the first of which was organized in March, 1916, at the Winhold, with Miss Elizabeth Coale as president, have been vital factors in the advancement of the Hillsboro educational system. Each school has an organization of parents, deeply interested in the welfare of the school child.



## Churches

After the sermon, the preacher sang another "hymn," the congregation joining in. It was then announced that after a few minutes' recess another brother would speak; then commenced the performance. The youngsters rushed to the fire with sticks and pieces of clapboard and rolled out the eggs they had deposited in the ashes to roast while the preacher was speaking.

So wrote Mrs. Tillson in her story of an early all-day church meeting in the Hillsboro neighborhood.

The open fireplaces of the first churches have given way to modern heating plants in comfortable brick buildings, but the spiritual life in Hillsboro today rests upon the organization started more than a century ago. From the old log cabin above Rountree's swamp came the nucleus of the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans.

Methodist circuit riders preached the gospel to scattered settlers, and later formed church societies. In mild weather "cabin preaching" was supplemented by two and three day camp meetings held in shaded groves. A favorite meeting place was on land once owned by Wesley Seymour, and now a part of the Junior High School campus. Despite the sparse population, hundreds of people came—some from points twenty and thirty miles away.

The Methodist organization in Hillsboro dates back to 1824-25, but it was not until 1834 that construction was begun on a frame building on North Main Street. John Tillson promised to aid the Methodists in completing the building if they would move it to a new site at the corner of Rountree and School streets where Miss Nellie Miller now lives. The financial panic of 1837-38 prevented his carrying out the promise, and the first building was moved but never completed. The second building was erected in 1840, when Rev. N. L. Bastian was pastor of the church. Formerly it stood back several feet from the walk; but when it was later converted into a business house, the



front was extended flush with the present line of stores. Although almost one hundred years have elapsed, the roof of the original structure may still be seen on the east side of the public square.

By 1862 the church was found to be inadequate for the growing congregation, and under the leadership of S. S. McGinnis a movement was started to purchase ground owned by Solomon Harkey. This movement culminated the following year in a new building facing north on Church Street. On Sunday, May 31, 1903, a fourth house of worship was dedicated under the pastorate of Rev. Presley P. Carson. The first parsonage, erected in 1867 for a Hillsboro Methodist pastor, still stands at 202 North Main Street. Rev. James Reynolds is serving his fifth year as pastor of the church.

On March 10, 1828, Rev. John Ellis met with several people at the Tillson home and formed a church known as the Presbyterian Church of Hillsboro. In 1831, with Rev. Thomas A. Spilman, the Presbyterians erected a one story brick structure which was occupied in an unfinished state until 1837.

At a meeting of January 23, 1837, there was proposed a plan for "Finishing Off the Meeting House." "Finishing" the house meant the building of a pulpit, pews, gallery, cupola, and the purchase of a suitable bell and two good stoves. Funds were raised from the sale of church pews, twenty-six of which brought \$1,664.

A bill of sale to Charles Holmes, trustee of the church, gave the purchaser pew number four with the right to use it in preference to others "but no authority to control the house or exclude the public from the use of the pew when not used by Holmes or his friends." The bill of sale was signed by James Paden, C. Holmes, and T. Sturtevant.

In 1860, with Rev. R. M. Roberts canvassing for subscriptions, the Presbyterians built a new house of worship.

According to the semi-centennial booklet issued in 1878 the music of the church was at times a source of discord.

The session and leaders of the singing seemed to have labored to secure harmony, sometimes canvassing the whole congregation to learn the wishes as to "how shall the singing be conducted and who shall lead it?" Long papers were adopted at meetings and the frequency with which the subject was acted upon justifies the conclusion that in this part of the sanctuary, there was not always the sweet accord so desirable and necessary to make it attractive and profitable.

In 1913, under the leadership of Rev. R. B. Wilson, the old church house was razed and the present commodious structure erected in its stead. Rev. Thomas Melton is serving his eleventh year as pastor of the Hillsboro church.

Rev. David Scherer founded St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Hillsboro in 1832. Services were first held in the courthouse and two years later a frame building was erected on a site north of the present church. In 1857, under the leadership of Rev. Jeremiah Livengood, who also organized the Ware's Grove congregation, the Lutherans built a two story structure for a place of worship. In 1896 the church officers decided to erect another building on ground purchased four years earlier when Rev. E. B. Killinger was pastor. This, the present structure, was dedicated April 4, 1897, with Rev. Ezra Keller as pastor. Rev. Keller has been pastor of the church since June, 1895.

The Unitarians, who at one time had a building on Main Street, south of the Seymour drug store, became inactive shortly after the close of the Civil War.

The Congregational Church was organized in 1859 and in 1865 its members erected the brick building on the corner of Hamilton and Wood streets. The church disbanded after the sale of their building to the Baptists in 1904.

The organization of Baptists was completed on June 25, 1876, with eleven charter members. Prior to 1904, when they purchased the Congregational building, the Baptists held services in the Presbyterian Church, and in other Hillsboro buildings.

Traveling priests first administered to the spiritual needs of Hillsboro Catholics in private homes. St. Agnes Church was constructed in 1869, and for many years its tall spire towered in the air as a landmark for miles around. On Sunday, May 31, 1931, one of Hillsboro's most destructive fires razed the edifice. The pastor, Rev. John M. Heslin, had just gone to Ireland for a visit with relatives. After the fire the church trustees were given the use of the Grand Theater on West Wood Street for services until the new building on East Tremont Street was ready for occupancy. On Sunday, September 13, 1936, Rev. Fr. Heslin and visiting priests laid the cornerstone of the present Romanesque building. Rev. Fr. Heslin has been in Hillsboro since 1921.

Fifty years ago four women of the Pentecostal faith started revival services in Hillsboro. From these services grew the present Free Methodist Society, the first building of which was dedicated December 21, 1890. The building was moved a short distance east and again dedicated on November 2, 1913, under the pastorate of Rev. B. F. Grigg. Rev. B. T. Bonham was the first regular pastor, and for many years Cyrus Tiffin was one of the most zealous workers for the church. Rev. R. R. Thompson is serving his third year as pastor.

On September 9, 1904, the *Montgomery News* reported:

Evangelist Sharpe gave two stirring addresses at the courthouse, and it was decided to open a campaign to arrange a permanent organization of a Christian church.

As a result of the evangelist's work a congregation of the Christian Church was organized. For many years they met at the courthouse, and at other times in the Odd Fellows Hall. Their first building, a frame structure, was torn down in August, 1921, and ground was broken for the new house. The years from 1921 to 1924 were trying ones for the pastor, Rev. H. J. Hostetler, and for members of

his flock; but financial difficulties were eventually overcome and the dedication services were conducted in 1924 by Rev. H. H. Peters of Bloomington. The present pastor, Rev. R. N. Cloyd, is starting his sixth year at Hillsboro.

## Clubs

Hillsboro fraternal and social organizations represent a cross-section of the small-town cultural field in the Middle West. They began early and have prospered steadily.

The Masonic Lodge was organized in 1839, the Odd Fellows in 1848. Both orders have large memberships. The Modern Woodmen flourished for several years, their organization dating back to 1886. The Knights of Pythias, at one time a powerful benevolent order here, still has a number of Hillsboro members. The Loyal Order of Moose, formed in 1913, has a large club room on South Main Street.

Literary societies were popular in the early days. One, known by the ponderous name of "The Philomathean Society," was active in the period prior to the Civil War. The *Montgomery Herald* of November 28, 1857, reported:

The meeting of the Philomathean Society was well attended last Tuesday evening. There was an essay read by Miss Susan Cram, an oration by Mr. Jesse Phillips, and a debate conducted by Dr. Washburn and Mr. Kingsbury.

The Hillsboro Debating Society of 1865 tackled such problems as "Resolved that the Congressional Test Oath is Unconstitutional, Impolitic, and Unjust." The leader for the affirmative was Edward Lane; for the negative side, M. V. Zimmerman. Officers of the club were Dr. Thomas Washburn and William Abbott.

The Hillsboro Division Number 179, Sons of Temperance, was organized in 1848 to promote temperance reform. Harmony ruled in the organization during its

first year, but along about 1850 trouble began to creep into the Hillsboro Division. Charges of "excessive brandy drinking" were filed against several individuals, whose principal defense was that the brandy had been consumed to check the progress of a stomach ailment "which was prevailing in our midst to an alarming extent." An investigating committee exonerated the accused members, but reported that "the manner in which the brandy was taken, publicly, was not calculated to maintain unsullied the reputation of the Sons of Temperance."

The Ladies' Reading Circle was organized in 1889. Some of its early officers were: Mrs. C. A. Ramsey, Miss Sue Walter, Mrs. William Abbot, Mrs. John Miller, and Mrs. Johnanna Chacey. The History Club dates back to 1897. In 1905 the officers chosen to serve were Mrs. Mattie Harris, Mrs. Jessie Wolfe, Mrs. Josie Hill, and Mrs. Gertie Duncan. The Self Culture Club was formed in 1904; the next year the following officers were appointed: Mrs. J. L. McDavid, Mrs. Rice Miller, Mrs. J. E. Y. Rice, and Mrs. T. S. Evans. The Monday Club was also organized in 1904 with Miss Margaret Wilson, president, and Miss Clara Noterman, secretary.

The Hillsboro Woman's Club, an association closely identified with the later civic and cultural development of Hillsboro, was organized in 1914. The officers that year were Mrs. A. M. Howell, Mrs. J. O. Fisher, Miss Clara Noterman, Mrs. H. M. Dorsey, Mrs. E. C. Chase, Mrs. H. A. Cress Jr., Mrs. J. Harvey Brown, Mrs. James P. Brown, Mrs. Nellie B. White, Mrs. John R. Challacombe, Mrs. LaRue Lindberg, Mrs. S. E. Washburn, and Mrs. Dillon Swingle.

The Business and Professional Women's Club, a comparatively new Hillsboro club, was organized in April, 1924, with Miss Ottie Gannon, president; Mrs. Ed. Fellis Jr., vice president; Miss Grace Potter and Miss Adell Phillips, secretaries; and Miss Ruby Harkey, treasurer.

A Hillsboro chapter of the Rotary was formed in

April, 1923, with L. V. Hill as president, and H. M. Beckwith, secretary. The Rotarians meet each Monday night at the Hillsboro Country Club. The local chapter of the Kiwanis Club, founded in 1935 with Jim Hilt as the first president, meets each Tuesday night at the Hillsboro Country Club.

Hillsboro business men have had a Commercial Club since 1882. The club has been especially active in developing Hillsboro industries. Businessmen got together long before 1882, but on March 25 of that year the local merchants secured the first articles of incorporation. The directors were Fred Noterman, jeweler; George H. Blackburn, storekeeper; M. M. Walsh, proprietor of a furniture store and undertaking establishment; W. L. Blackburn, storekeeper; A. A. K. Sawyer, merchant and land owner.

## Music

"Hillsboro is now quite a musical city," said the *Hillsboro Journal* of July 28, 1899. "The Light Guard Band gives a concert once a week; Mr. Cully has started a music store, keeping some of his instruments going all the time; and occasionally the piano at the Armory chips in with "There's Only One Girl In The World."

Long before 1899, however, Hillsboro persons were showing an interest in music. The first means of musical expression were the singing school and the violin. One of the best known vocal teachers of the early days was Professor A. C. Williams, who conducted singing schools in Hillsboro and in other towns in central Illinois from 1860 to 1899.

As early as 1857 the Hillsboro "Sax-Horn Band" was giving concerts and leading parades for political rallies. The Silver Cornet Band was popular in the eighties. Joseph Baker, Hillsboro attorney, in recalling the days of this band has said:

When I came to Hillsboro in 1883 to attend the high school, the Silver Cornet Band practiced several nights



each week in the City Hall building. Among its members were Riley Mason, Warren Neff, and Louis Mey. The band had a high seated, gayly decorated wagon, drawn by four horses. Not long afterwards the Light Guard Band was organized, and there was considerable rivalry between the two groups.

The Light Guard consisted of twenty-six pieces, under the leadership of George Pearson. Perhaps the splendid new uniforms of the Light Guards, especially the ones procured for the season of 1893, had something to do with the jealousy among the members of the other musical organizations. The *News* of May 19, 1893, announced:

The Light Guard Band boys have received their new uniforms. The suits are green and bedecked all over with gold braid and brass buttons.

Another musical group that delighted the people of Hillsboro was the Mikado orchestra, directed by the same George Pearson. The orchestra disbanded when Mr. Pearson moved to Shelbyville; but out of gratitude for the pleasure the Mikado musicians and George Pearson gave the people here, the citizens of Hillsboro for several years held an annual homecoming "Old Time Dance."

A father and nine sons, who came to Hillsboro in 1907 to work in the coal mines, organized a band which for years made a contribution to the musical advancement of the community. As late as 1916, a Hillsboro newspaper announced: "The Mollman band of this city will give a mid-winter concert at the Fellis Opera House. Miss Bertha Root and George Trimby will sing."

An orchestra composed of Charles Pullen, Edward Williams, John Fletcher, Edward Robbins, Dr. Earhart, and Jennie Smith furnished music in 1906 at the old opera house. From 1918 to 1922 Dr. E. B. Strange trained and conducted a group of young people known as the "Strange Saxo Band." Music in the Hillsboro public schools began as early as 1899 under Miss Margaret Wil-



liams, daughter of Professor A. C. Williams. Mrs. John B. White taught music from 1904 through 1906. Mrs. Emma Gilmore was also supervisor of vocal music for many years. Band instruments were introduced in 1926 under Willis Varner. Miss Dorothy Perry and Lee Hope are the present supervisors of music in the grade schools. J. B. Cox directs the band and orchestra at the high school.

## *Chautauqua*

The annual Chautauqua, a major attraction from 1906 to 1931, started in 1905 at Litchfield; but when the electric interurban connected Litchfield and Hillsboro in 1906, residents of both towns selected a wooded tract of land half way between the two places for a combined Litchfield-Hillsboro Chautauqua. The first directors for the Chautauqua were: J. K. McDavid, A. M. Howell, William Vawter, C. A. Ramsey, and J. B. Barringer, Hillsboro; Dr. R. F. Bennett, Dr. P. M. Kelly, E. H. Baldwin, Charles E. Morgan, J. A. Pappmeier, A. R. Stansifer, John Henley, Mrs. G. L. Settlemire, Mrs. G. W. Fisher, and J. T. Ogle, Litchfield.

Perhaps the chief pleasure of Chautauqua was simply in the assembly. There were programs, of course, featuring the great William Jennings Bryan, who gave his famous lecture "The Prince of Peace," Billy Sunday, Senator Robert M. La Follette, Sr., Champ Clark, Sr., Opie Read, the Swiss Bell Ringers, magicians, musicians, and jugglers. Church and Sunday School were held regularly during the Chautauqua sessions. There were Home Talent Days, Athletic Days, Democratic Days, and Republican Days—days for this and days for that; but the memory of "meeting at Chautauqua," and the recollection of days of pleasant fellowship are stronger than the memory of any one program.

At first there was a hitching rack around one side of the grounds, but in later years the roads were heavy with

the dust from automobiles. Inside the timbered grounds were grassy slopes and a lake for canoes.

A long rustic bridge crossed the lake, which was fringed with many cottages, a dining hall, a grocery store, and a soft drink stand. There were mosquitoes, too, but they are forgotten in the memories of quiet evenings in August and the play of moonbeams on the water.

Sunday night brought the two weeks' session to a close. Equipment was packed, and the weary campers prepared to board the interurban, or to climb into an automobile for the return journey. Some lingered for another week of life in the open.

The final program was given in 1931, and a few years later the cottages were sold and moved away. Chautauqua is now just a pleasant memory in the minds of hundreds of Montgomery County persons.



## Newspapers

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER in Hillsboro was the *Prairie Beacon*, published by Aaron Clapp in 1838. The *Beacon* expired a year later and no publication appeared in Hillsboro until 1850, when Rev. Francis Springer edited the *Prairie Mirror*. When James Blackman took over the *Mirror* in 1854, he changed the name to the *Montgomery Herald*.

Despite a series of new owners, the *Herald* retained its name until 1868, when it became known as the *Hillsboro Democrat*. E. J. C. Alexander, perhaps the most fearless and outspoken editor of the early days, was an ardent exponent of the farmers' cause and a short time later his weekly came out under the banner of the *Anti-Monopolist*. In 1877 the *Anti-Monopolist* found its way into the hands of James Slack, who renamed it the *Hillsboro Journal*.

Charles Truitt and Ben F. Boyd were the next proprietors of the *Journal*. In 1898 the *Journal* was sold to Josiah Bixler, who in turn sold it to Sam Little and Harry T. Shipman. Sam Little, the present editor and publisher, took charge in 1907.

The *Montgomery News* is a product of the old *News Letter*, conducted in 1870 by Charles L. and Emma T.

Bangs. Ben Johnson and Charles Tobin acquired the publication in 1875 and changed the name to the *Montgomery News*. George Paisley bought Johnson's interest in 1878; but four years later Johnson was again a partner, continuing as editor until his death in 1887, when his son Emmett became editor. In 1892 the *News* became the property of C. W. Bliss. In 1904 his son, Clinton Bliss, joined the *News* as a partner and associate editor, and since his father's death in 1931 has been the owner and editor.

Both the *News* and the *Journal* became semi-weeklies in 1913.

One of the most interesting features of early Hillsboro newspapers was the rather sensational advertising written to catch the eye of the most casual reader and fix his mind upon the merits of a particular product. "A Man Killed," was the startling announcement in one paper in 1867 but a further perusal of the story disclosed that the report of the man's death was based on the rumor that he had ruptured a blood vessel trying to carry home an exceptionally heavy load of bargain merchandise from a certain Hillsboro store. "Truth Stranger Than Fiction," was the opening sentence of another advertisement, which related that one of the county's oldest merchants had "forsaken the ranks of his old fogey competitors, fitted up his store in modern style, and adopted the Young-American system of selling cheap." A well-known auctioneer was further publicized with the announcement that "Anybody wanting anything done in his line will always find him wide awake and full of flees."

Patent medicines were given considerable space in the publications. Citron's Balsam "At half the money and no scratching," was a well known ointment for the itch. Hoofland's German Bitters was "A sure cure to renew strength in any soldier, citizen, adult or youth." The dreaded chills which seemed prevalent in the early sixties were counteracted with Pashall's Fever and Ague Mixture.

The country newspapers were often unprofitable in-

vestments for their editors and publishers, who at times found themselves less than one jump ahead of the sheriff. When on June 1, 1866, subscribers to the short-lived *Union Monitor* failed to get their weekly paper, editor E. J. C. Alexander, who later took over the *Democrat*, had the following explanation in the next issue of the *Monitor*:

Many of our subscribers were surprised at the non-arrival last week of the MONITOR. We propose to explain briefly. We had a call. A call was paid us by an old and valued friend, a gentleman occupying an important position. He is in short, the Sheriff of the county. We have known him for many years and we are very much attached to him. He also had an attachment for us.

But this week, calling to our aid a writ of replevin, we have girded up our loins and go on our way rejoicing.

Mindful of the community's need for his newspaper, editor Alexander urged delinquent subscribers to pay up and to remember that "If intelligence is not worth paying for, it is not worth having."



## *Points of Interest*

1. The MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, a three story brick structure with a mansard tower, stands at the north end of Hillsboro's business district on Main Street. Generally known as the fourth courthouse, the present building is really the result of an extensive repair job started in 1868 on the third courthouse.

On the first floor are the offices of the circuit clerk, sheriff, county clerk, treasurer, county judge, and superintendent of highways, and a fireproof vault for the protection of valuable records. The second floor has the circuit court and circuit judges' rooms, state's attorney's office, and county superintendent of schools' office. The county supervisors and members of the grand jury meet on the third floor.

2. The MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARM BUREAU has its headquarters in a building on the west side of the courthouse square. The local Farm Bureau was organized April 1, 1918, but it is known that as early as 1870 the farmers



of Montgomery county recognized the need of co-operation in solving their many problems. In March of that year they formed a club and employed a special agent to travel in the east, where he could watch the livestock markets and send reports to members.

Alden Snyder has managed the local bureau since its inception in 1918, and from point of service is now the oldest farm adviser in Illinois. The office staff handles the details of subsidiary divisions dealing in petroleum products, insurance, crop control, soil conservation, marketing, serums, and insect eradication. The 725 members are stockholders in the major subsidiaries, sharing in the profits according to the patronage contributed. Home Bureau Units, with 216 women members, are under the supervision of Mrs. Mabel Albrecht. The Farm Bureau gives special attention to rural youth activities, particularly to the 4-H Clubs. Almost three hundred boys and girls are interested in crop and livestock projects, sewing and domestic science.

3. The WINHOLD SCHOOL, at 101 E. Brailley, is Hillsboro's first public school building. Erected in 1861, it is still one of the units in the city's school system. In 1915 the school was named Winhold, in honor of Miss Mary Winhold, who taught in the Hillsboro schools for many years.

4. The BLUFFS CEMETERY, known also as the Methodist Cemetery, is located on a high bluff at the end of North Hamilton Street. Hiram Rountree is buried in the fenced Rountree lot, and here too are headstones for C. B. Blockburger, one of the first Hillsboro innkeepers, Riley Mason, Warren Neff, and other old settlers. The graves of fourteen soldiers are cared for by the American Legion.

The Bluff Cemetery Association was incorporated in 1869 by William C. Miller, Wooten Harris, Thomas Standring, Edward Y. Rice, and Aaron H. Rountree. The association was reorganized in 1923 and meetings have been held twice a year since that time. Present directors are Mrs. E. M. Stubblefield, Marcus Jones, Albert Roberts, William



Sharp, Kenneth Edwards, and Dwight Puckett. The secretary is Miss Agnes Reed.

5. The MILLER HOUSE, at 305 West Wood Street, is one of several large old houses, built in pioneer times, which has been occupied by three generations of the same family. About ninety years old, it was built by Ira Millard and sold to Jacob Whitehead, who later sold it to Judge Edward Rice. The late Judge and Mrs. Amos Miller moved to the place when they were married in 1871, and all of their married years, more than sixty, were spent there. The Miller house is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Pinkerton, the latter a daughter of Judge and Mrs. Amos Miller, and a granddaughter of Judge Rice.

6. The HILLSBORO POSTOFFICE, on West Wood Street, was completed in April, 1934. The structure, which cost \$42,827 without equipment, is of light colored brick with stone trimming, with an interior decorated in marble.

John Tillson was Hillsboro's first postmaster. The mail was brought in from Greenville every two weeks by carrier, who went as far as the old Seward place near Butler, the northern terminus of the mail route. It is said that in the early days a letter could be mailed with or without postage, but if not prepaid, the addressee was expected to pay the postage before receiving the letter.

The exact location of the first postoffice in Hillsboro is not known. In 1858, when Joseph Rolston was postmaster, the postoffice was combined with his store, on the site of the present Brungger bakery at 231 South Main Street. That year Tom Cory ran a mail and stage route from the Hillsboro postoffice to Carlyle and Shipman. The coach left Hillsboro at six in the morning and arrived in Carlyle, forty-five miles by today's highway, the same day.

The postoffice was moved frequently during the next few years. In 1870 it was located in the present Shaner Toggery, 206 South Main Street. Later the mail was handled in Stubblefield's drug store, now Mobley's. Robbins's barber shop also was a postoffice site. In 1915 the office

was moved from the Odd Fellows' Building to the Hamilton Building where it remained until 1934.

Rural delivery was established March 1, 1900, with Albert Fish and Len Clotfelter as the first rural carriers. City delivery was begun on April 1, 1912. The city route men that year were Theodore Lind and Chester Dreyhus. The present postmaster is A. H. Bartlett.

7. THE ODD FELLOWS' BUILDING, southeast corner of Main and Wood streets, occupies the site of Hillsboro's first hotel, the American House. Built in 1829 by John Tillson and David Jackson, the spacious frame building was a favorite inn for more than a half a century. In 1887 the American House was replaced by the present structure, which was built for an opera house. The Odd Fellows' Lodge purchased the building in 1922.

8. THE SITE OF THE JOSEPH T. ECCLES HOUSE, Berry and Water streets, is now occupied by a brick building. Lincoln stayed at the home of Mr. Eccles while campaigning for the Senate in 1858.

9. THE SECOND OLDEST HOUSE IN HILLSBORO is believed to be the two-story frame structure on Broad Street, east of the Methodist Church. The house, with its original stairway of walnut lumber, is said to have been built in 1832 by Solomon Harkey, who at that time owned all the land now embraced by Central Park. The present owners and occupants of the house are Mrs. Attilia Zeigler and her daughter, Mrs. Emma Gilmore.

10. THE HIRAM ROUNTREE HOUSE, on the southwest corner of Wood and Rountree streets, is the oldest building in Hillsboro. Erected in 1831 by Hiram Rountree, the rambling but sturdy brick building has a long porch partly covered with lattice work. The place, always a home for the Rountrees, is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Etta Stubblefield, a granddaughter of Hiram Rountree.

11. CENTRAL PARK, a block east of the courthouse between Seward and Wood streets, is a 6-acre tract with a ball diamond, tennis courts, horseshoe courts, croquet

grounds, swimming pool, and children's wading pool. The swimming pool (*May-Sept.; season tickets accepted at City Lake Park pool also*) has been improved by the addition of a sanitary filter system which meets the requirements of the state board of health. In the southwest corner of Central Park is the old spring which is believed to be the one discovered more than a century ago by the Nussmans, Hillsboro's first settlers.

12. The CITY WATER WORKS (*visitors welcome*) north of the light plant, was completed in December, 1926, at a cost of \$55,600. Approximately 250,000 gallons of water are distributed daily. Water from the 600,000,000 gallon city lake flows by gravity through a 14-inch main to the filtration plant where it first enters a coagulation basin. The water then winds its way 985 feet over and under baffle plates to two sediment basins, each of which holds 125,000 gallons. The next receptacles are two 100,000 gallon gravity sand filters, which slowly filter the water into a large clear well. Powerful electric pumps then force the water from the clear well to the new 250,000 gallon tower at the top of the hill whence it is distributed by pressure to city mains.

Each step in the chemical treatment of water is carefully supervised by employees at the plant. Samples of both raw and treated water are sent every thirty days to the state board of health for a rigid inspection. The city has recently installed a complete laboratory which will enable the Hillsboro plant to test water by the same methods used in state laboratories.

13. LAKE HILLSBORO PARK, two miles northeast of Hillsboro, attracts thousands of visitors during the outdoor season. A large lake, well stocked with fish, attracts anglers from many points in central Illinois and eastern Missouri. A concrete dock, which serves as a walk and a boat landing, runs along the base of the hill. An outdoor swimming pool, under the supervision of life guards, is open from May until September.

The park, with its tree-covered hills, has all facilities for picnickers, including good drinking water, fireplaces, lavatories, shelters, and refreshment stand. An all-weather road to the park is now being extended to the east side of the lake, and when completed will serve as a scenic outer drive.

Work on the city lake, which also supplies Hillsboro's water, began in 1917. A large earth embankment and concrete spillway, completed in 1918, impounds approximately 114 acres of water. The park, which includes the ground now leased by the country club, contains 240 acres.

14. The HILLSBORO COUNTRY CLUB, occupying sixty acres on the road to the City Park, has a \$25,000 brick and stucco building overlooking the lake, which stretches far to the south and east. Within sight of the club house is the big dam which holds back the waters of the lake.

The structure, erected under the direction of R. M. Roosevelt, was opened with a reception for guests and members on April 2, 1923. Miss Ray Phillips was the first manager of the club.

Although the country club is private, its membership represents almost every profession and business in Hillsboro. The nine-hole golf course is available to guests sponsored by any member of the club. The club house serves as a meeting place for the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs, and is a center for many civic gatherings in Hillsboro.

Officers of the club are: president, Charles Toberman; vice-president, John B. White; secretary, Brewer Dammann; directors, Dr. C. M. Boyd, Dr. H. L. Granier, H. Clay Latham, Sam Little, C. F. McHenry, M. C. Brown.

15. The EAGLE Picher Lead Company Plant, one-half mile northwest of the railroad depot, is one of Hillsboro's main industrial concerns. The plant buildings occupy about thirty acres of ground. The company manufactures all grades of zinc oxides, including American process, French process, and leaded zinc oxides. The finished product is

used in the manufacture of paint, pottery clays, and rubber tires.

Zinc and lead ores and slab zinc from the lead mines in the Tri-State area are first oxidized by heating them to a vapor temperature. The zinc oxide is then conveyed from the furnaces through large pipes to the bag houses where it is blended and packed for shipment. Oxides from the Hillsboro plant are shipped to all points in the United States and to many foreign countries. The employees have a large, well equipped clubroom and other recreational facilities. The company has an excellent record in the field of safety and health.

16. The HILLSBORO MINE, 1123 School Street, is Hillsboro's oldest industrial concern. Opened in 1887 by a group of Hillsboro men, the mine today is operated by the Hillsboro Mining Company. It hoists approximately 700 tons of coal each working day. Coal from the mine is graded as egg, nut, lump, screenings, and stoker.

17. The HILLSBORO HOSPITAL, 800 School Street, has thirty-three beds and excellent operating and X-ray rooms. On March 17, 1905, representatives of the Woman's Relief Corps, the W. C. T. U., the Rebekahs, the Order of Eastern Star, and the Rathbone societies organized the first hospital association. Officers elected were Mrs. Jennie Truitt, Mrs. Hattie McDavid, Mrs. Lizzie Michel, Mrs. Sophia Tobias, Mrs. Olive Roberts, and Mrs. Della Shoemaker. A campaign to raise money was begun with a benefit show at the old opera house. Miss Nellie Woodruff won the prize for selling the most tickets. Hospital boxes were placed in Hillsboro stores. Fairs, tag days, and contributions from the people of Hillsboro, Butler Grove, and other communities swelled the fund.

Year after year the drive went on until in 1915 there was sufficient money to begin construction of the hospital building. In January, 1916, rooms were furnished by the American Smelter, the Woman's Relief Corps, citizens of Donnellson, Mrs. J. K. McDavid, the employees of the

Schram Glass Factory, the Ladies' Reading Circle, the Odd Fellows' Lodge, the Presbyterian Church, the History Club, and the Self Culture Club. Dr. H. K. Fink, H. S. Hargrave, and Frank H. Brown secured donations for furnishing two wards.

At the opening, February 22, 1916, Judge Amos Miller dedicated the building as follows:

On this opening day we dedicate this building and all its equipment to the service of relieving pain and restoring to health and vigor, the sick and injured. In a deeper sense, if possible, let us one and all dedicate ourselves to an unselfish service for the support and maintenance of this hospital to the end that it may become a blessing to the city of Hillsboro and surrounding community.

Officers of the Hospital Association at the time the building was completed were: Mrs. Eugenia Helston, Mrs. Kate Seward, Mrs. Addie Armstrong, Mrs. A. M. Howell, and Mrs. Hattie McDavid. The committees were: finance, J. J. Frey and Frank H. Brown; construction: Doctors Z. V. Kimball, W. W. Douglas, H. A. Seymour, James P. Brown, and J. L. Dryer.

The first hospital superintendent was Mr. B. Bye, a native of Norway who had been in Hillsboro caring for the late Judge Cooper. Miss Ota Denton was one of the first nurses at the institution.

Facilities at the hospital eventually proved inadequate, and in April, 1922, a new addition was completed. Other improvements have made this hospital one of the best of its size in central Illinois. Mrs. Amos Dort is the superintendent of nineteen employees.

Members of the hospital board are Mrs. J. E. Y. Rice, Miss Ida Truitt, Frank H. Brown, A. L. Schram, A. H. Dorsey, Mrs. C. C. Baxter, Mrs. Frank I. Clotfelter, Miss Esther Challacombe, and Elbert Butler.

18. The HILLSBORO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, on East Tremont Street, is approached by a lane that winds past stately oaks, elms, and willows on the landscaped campus. The three-storied, brick building stands on a 21-acre tract



purchased from the estate of John T. Maddux. A handsome old brick house occupied a half-century ago by Judge Jesse J. Phillips, who called his home Crow Hill, provides a residence for the superintendent of buildings, Samuel Paton.

When it became evident in 1920, that the old high school on Fairground Avenue was inadequate, a community high school district was formed and a bond issue of \$180,000 was voted to finance the construction of a community high school building. On June 22, 1920, a contract was awarded Jesse Gedney of East St. Louis. Ground was broken on July 19 of the same year and the building was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1921. The total cost of the building was approximately \$250,000. J. W. Kennedy of East St. Louis was the architect.

On October 11, 1938, the Evans Brothers' Construction Company of Springfield submitted a low bid of \$127,000 for a gymnasium building. Work was started immediately and the structure, designed by Royer, Danely, and Davis of Urbana, was completed in November, 1939. The gymnasium was financed in part by P. W. A. funds.

The enrollment (1939) is 615, some of whom come from the neighboring towns of Butler, Irving, Donnellson, Panama, and Sorento. In addition to the regular school curriculum, which includes music, speech, home economics, commercial subjects, and agriculture, there is a full program of athletics for both boys and girls. A course in manual training and shop work will be given in the new gymnasium building.

Principal George Girhard, a teacher in the Hillsboro schools for twenty-five years, supervises a staff of nineteen instructors. The school employs a full time secretary. Members of the high school board are Dr. H. A. Seymour, Charles Attebery, M. C. Pressmar, James Cress, and Anthony Schindler.

19. The ST. AGNES CHURCH, corner of Tremont and Rountree streets, is the newest church in Hillsboro. Dedi-



cated Sunday, October 10, 1937, the twin towered structure of yellow brick is a model of simplicity and beauty.

20. The HILLSBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY, (2-9 *except Wed., 2-6, and Sat. 2-8:30*) at School and Rountree streets, has 9,105 volumes of fiction and non-fiction for both junior and adult readers. Books are free to residents of Hillsboro and to all school students; non-residents pay a small fee.

It might be said that the Hillsboro library had its inception in 1858 when postmaster Joseph Rolston kept a small collection of books which he proposed to use as a circulating library. However, definite action for a library did not crystallize until 1895, when a meeting was called to plan for the establishment of a "Reading Room and Library." J. J. Phillips, Amos Miller, George Cooper, W. H. North, Charles H. Ramsey, George Walter, Mrs. Fred Noterman, Mrs. C. W. Bliss, Mrs. H. H. Keithley, and Mrs. Arthur Cole were elected directors. Space in the Corner Block Building was donated by John M. Whitehead, and the reading room was officially opened to the public on October 10, 1895.

In 1896 the city council assumed partial control of the library. In 1903 the citizens of Hillsboro voted to accept Andrew Carnegie's gift of \$10,000 for a library building. Selection of a building site brought on considerable discussion among members of the library board and members of the city council. There was strong sentiment for placing the new library on a lot in Tillson Place but after some controversy it was decided to build on the site donated by John M. Whitehead.

The new building, a reproduction of the old Hillsboro Academy, was designed by Paul G. Moratz of Bloomington. I. M. Garthwait was the contractor, H. B. McCoy the superintendent of construction. The library was opened to the public on March 18, 1905, with a musical program in the afternoon and evening.

At the entrance of the building is a bronze tablet on which is inscribed:

Andrew Carnegie, Building Gift, \$10,000—1904.  
Site Gift, John M. Whitehead.

Board of Directors:  
Carrie M. Howell, Pres.  
George A. Walter, Secretary.  
Nettie T. Douglas.  
Anna Chacey.  
Anna W. Bixler.  
Larkin G. Tyler.

Building committee:  
C. A. Ramsey, Amos Miller, C. H. Witherspoon.

Miss Ottie Gannon served as librarian in the old Reading Room until August 30, 1899, when she was succeeded by Miss Ada Gilmore. Miss Bertha Welge served from January 1, 1900, until the World War, when she was employed in the offices of the railroad company. Miss Jessie Best and Miss Jennie Hayes were librarians until December 1, 1921, when Miss Welge resumed the position until a short time before her death on December 10, 1924. Miss Lois Lyerla was librarian until 1939, when she resigned and was succeeded by the assistant librarian, Earl Rush.

Present members of the library board are:

H. J. Beckemeyer.  
Mrs. A. M. Howell.  
O. M. Hampton.  
Miss Ida Truitt.  
Miss Esther Challacombe.  
Chester Guthrie  
Mrs. J. E. Y. Rice.  
Mrs. Walter McLean.  
Mrs. Edward Fellis.

21. The EDISON SCHOOL, 101 School Street, stands on the site of the old Hillsboro Academy. The Academy building, of frame, but similar in design to the Hillsboro library, was used as a college from 1837 to 1880.

22. The SITE OF THE BLOCKBURGER INN, at the corner of Main and Tillson streets, is now occupied by a filling sta-

tion. Here Lincoln, according to Herndon's *Life of Lincoln*, stopped overnight shortly before he was to fight his duel with James T. Shields. Here, also, on August 31, 1839, a little band of pioneers met and organized the first Hillsboro Masonic Lodge. The two-story building, erected shortly after 1830, was torn down in 1927.

23. OAK GROVE CEMETERY, at the end of West Tremont Street, was laid out in 1843 on 4 2-3 acres of ground originally set aside as a public burial ground by John Tillson, Jr. The first meeting of the Oak Grove Cemetery Association was held March 29, 1843, when James Blackman was chosen chairman, and John Hayward, secretary. On July 29 of that year, thirty-two lots were sold at public auction. Harry Wilton purchased lot number one for nine dollars.

In 1870 the directors of the cemetery instructed the superintendent to keep a record of the deceased "including the age, sex, and disease of which they die." A tract of ground was set aside for the burial of strangers and those unable to pay for lots.

In 1894 the association purchased five acres from Charles Seymour, and in 1922 it acquired another five acres from Mrs. Sarah Seymour. A mausoleum was constructed in 1913.

Records fail to disclose the exact number of graves. Old stones, almost smooth from time and weather, show deaths as early as 1831, twelve years before the association was formed. The only Negro buried in Oak Grove is Martha, the servant of "Uncle Joe" and "Aunt Jane" Eccles. She is buried on the Eccles lot.

A monument erected by F. D. Hubbel Post No. 403 and the Woman's Relief Corps, at the entrance of the cemetery, commemorates the soldier dead. There are 225 military graves, which are given special attention by the American Legion and veterans' organizations.

A few feet south of Oak Grove is the well-kept St.

AGNES CEMETERY for those of the Catholic faith. St. Agnes cemetery has nine soldiers' graves.

24. The campus of the JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, at the end of West Fairground Avenue, was the site of the first county fair in 1854, and here Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas spoke in 1858. Here, too, the pioneers of Montgomery County erected a cabin and formed their first Old Settlers' Association in 1883.

25. The CRESS HILL CEMETERY, one mile west of Hillsboro on Route 16, contains five acres of ground. In 1860, the Hillsboro Lutherans, seeking a new burial ground, purchased the tract of land from George Henry Cress and Tom Cory. On October 25, 1890, the site was sold to the newly organized Cress Hill Cemetery Association, whose first officers were Jacob Beck, Jesse C. Barrett, Henry A. Cress, John J. Scherer, and Christopher Kober. H. A. Cress, Sr., the only surviving member of the first association, is serving his fiftieth year as secretary and treasurer.

Cress Hill Cemetery is the burial place for stage coach driver Tom Cory, for the Cress ancestors, and for many pioneers of the Hillsboro community. There are twenty-one soldiers' graves on the ground, including two veterans of the Black Hawk War.

A tourist traveling on North Broad Street will see only a row of houses on the east side of the street, but almost a century ago the ground east of Broad Street and south of Vawter Street was the burial place for many members of the Lutheran faith, and for other citizens of Hillsboro. Shortly after the purchase of the Cress Hill plot, the Broad Street graves were moved there and to other cemeteries.

## *Chronology*

- 1821 Montgomery County organized. County seat site three miles southwest of Hillsboro selected March 21 and site named Hamilton on April 23.
- 1822 Robert Anderson and Milton Shurtleff secure permits to sell liquor and other articles.
- 1823 Commissioners select Hillsboro for new county seat. George File, surveyor, receives \$3.75 for laying out town lots.
- 1824 Contract of \$221.83 $\frac{1}{3}$  awarded to Thomas McAdams for building courthouse. Commissioners give free lots to Joseph and Benjamin Miller for tan yard.
- 1825 Erect log house on hill west of Central Park for school and church. John Tillson builds brick house on northwest corner of Main and Tremont streets.
- 1826 Commissioners order stairway built between first and second floors of courthouse.
- 1827 Israel Seward appointed assessor at \$17 per year.
- 1828 Commissioners contract for first jail. Meeting at John Tillson's house to organize Presbyterian church.
- 1829 Hiram Rountree receives \$20 for six months' service as county and circuit clerk.
- 1830 Stephen Fullingsworth appointed keeper of stray pen for wandering livestock.
- 1831 Hiram Rountree builds brick house on corner of Rountree and Wood streets. Presbyterians erect first church building.
- 1832 Two Hillsboro companies leave for Black Hawk war. St. Paul's Lutheran church founded and services held in courthouse.
- 1833 Thomas Whitten contracts to build frame courthouse for \$1,800.
- 1834 Population of Hillsboro placed at 250. Methodists and Lutherans erect their first church buildings.

- 1835 Hillsboro streets opened "sufficient width to permit passage of wagons and carriages." Frame courthouse given two coats of paint.
- 1836 John T. Maddux, first mayor, settles in Hillsboro. Village grants license for first show, a zoological display.
- 1837 Academy opens. County commissioners seek loan of \$600 to build three bridges across Shoal Creek.
- 1838 First newspaper, the *Prairie Beacon*, published by Aaron Clapp.
- 1839 First Masonic Lodge organized.
- 1840 Methodists build second church.
- 1843 Organize Oak Grove Cemetery Association.
- 1844 Lincoln speaks from courthouse.
- 1846 Company of ninety-six men leaves for Mexican War. Lutherans acquire Hillsboro Academy.
- 1847 First county poor farm established in Irving Township.
- 1848 First Odd Fellows' Lodge organized.
- 1849 Six thousand attend railroad convention and barge-cue.
- 1850 Rev. Francis Springer edits the *Prairie Mirror*.
- 1851 Citizens of Hillsboro and Montgomery county vote to purchase \$50,000 stock of the Terre Haute and Alton R. R. Co.
- 1852 Lutherans move college to Springfield but Academy continues at Hillsboro.
- 1854 Hold first county fair. Frame courthouse replaced by two-story brick.
- 1855 Railroad reaches Hillsboro. Hillsboro becomes incorporated town with Thomas Phillips as president of the board. First ordinance prohibits the running of animals at large.
- 1857 County Medical Association holds first meeting. Lutherans erect two-story church building.



- 1858 Telegraph line completed. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln speak at Fairgrounds. Lincoln is guest of Joseph Eccles. School teachers hold first county institute.
- 1859 Pike's Peak gold rush takes many from Hillsboro to Colorado. Davis, Haskell, and Clark open first bank. Independent Light Guard Company, with R. W. Davis as captain, formed.
- 1860 Presbyterians build new church.
- 1861 Military companies leave for war service. North School is erected.
- 1865 Citizens meet at courthouse to celebrate close of Civil War. Congregational church is built.
- 1867 Louis Welge opens furniture factory. Clotfelter Building and Masonic Hall are erected.
- 1869 Hillsboro incorporated as a city and John T. Maddux elected mayor. First test for coal is made. Glenn mills ship sixty cars of flour and grain. St. Agnes Church is erected.
- 1870 Montgomery County Loan & Trust Company, organized in 1869, opens for business. Courthouse remodeled.
- 1872 Union Block building erected.
- 1874 Site for county poor farm selected. Amos Miller and Judge E. Y. Rice form law partnership.
- 1880 Academy discontinued and building used for public school.
- 1882 Hillsboro National Bank organized. Merchants incorporate Commercial Club.
- 1883 Old Settlers' Association formed.  
Hold first high school commencement.
- 1885 Merchants fight removal of wooden awnings.
- 1886 Edward Lane elected to Congress.
- 1887 Coal mine completed. Company to promote mineral springs formed. Edison School and Opera House built.
- 1888 Pump house and water tank erected. Schedule of water rates fixed.



- 1889 City ordinance makes possession of slingshot a misdemeanor. Organize Hillsboro Township Fire Mutual Insurance Company.
- 1890 Free Methodists dedicate church building. Cress Hill Cemetery Association buys burial ground from Lutherans.
- 1891 City grants franchise for light, heat, and power.
- 1892 Ordinance prohibits barbed wire fences near walks. C. W. Bliss becomes owner and editor of *Montgomery News*. C. A. Ramsey elected to state legislature.
- 1893 Hillsboro obtains first electric lights.
- 1894 John M. Whitehead and Amos Miller erect Corner Block Building. John R. Challacombe elected to state legislature.
- 1895 Reading room opened. Telephone system begins with twenty-five telephones.
- 1896 Empire Mill on Vawter Street destroyed by fire.
- 1897 Thomas Jett elected to Congress, first of three consecutive terms. Lutherans dedicate new church.
- 1898 Company E leaves for Springfield en route to Spanish-American War.
- 1899 Miss Margaret Williams employed as music instructor for Hillsboro schools.
- 1900 Post office begins rural delivery.
- 1901 Businessmen meet to promote lake and new water supply. Creamery receives 3,000 pounds milk daily.
- 1902 Mutual Telephone Company organized.
- 1903 Methodists dedicate new church structure. City Council requests curfew ordinance. Contract is let to Challacombe and Minton for lake dam.
- 1904 Second railroad reaches Hillsboro. Kortkamp mine opened. Students enter new high school.
- 1905 Peoples National Bank organized. Library opened to public. Roundhouse and turntable for railroad are built.

- 1906 Schram glass factory begins manufacture of jars and glasses. Electric interurban reaches Hillsboro. First Litchfield-Hillsboro Chautauqua program given.
- 1907 Track laid from courthouse to depot for city electric streetcars. South Main Street paved.
- 1908 Taylor Springs mine opened. County jail and sheriff's quarters built.
- 1909 Congressman Jett elected circuit judge, and serves in that capacity until his death in 1939.
- 1910 Worst hailstorm in history of Hillsboro does severe damage to buildings on April 15.
- 1911 American Smelter at Taylor Springs, and Robert Lanyon Smelter at Hillsboro build plants. City adopts commission form of government.
- 1912 City mail delivery established.
- 1913 City installs fire siren at light plant. Evans Brothers buy auto ambulance. Moose Club organized.
- 1914 High school wins state basket ball championship. Hillsboro Woman's Club organized.
- 1915 Build Burbank School. State Senator S. D. Canaday serves as Acting Governor of Illinois during absence of Governor Edward F. Dunne and Lt. Governor Barratt O'Hara.
- 1916 Hillsboro Hospital dedicated. Winhold Parent-Teachers' Association organized.
- 1917 Hillsboro men leave for World War. Work on new City Lake begun.
- 1918 Farmers meet at Hillsboro to organize Farm Bureau.
- 1919 Company E and other soldiers return from France.
- 1920 City pays \$9,000 for first auto fire engine. Sheriff M. T. Kiggins begins raids on illicit stills. Women cast first general vote.
- 1921 New community high school opened. Fire destroys packing room of glass factory. Robert Zuppke, Illinois coach, addresses newly formed Montgomery County Illini Club. William Jennings Bryan speaks at Chautauqua.

- 1923 National Guard called for labor trouble at American Smelter. Taylor Springs mine closed. Rotary Club formed. Hillsboro Country Club opened. Former Hillsboro orphan, Harry Ferguson, returns as "Prince Obolensky".
- 1924 Christian Church dedicated. Kortkamp mine closed. Big Four subway completed. Harold Osborne wins Olympic Decathlon in France.
- 1925 Schram Glass factory sold to Ball Brothers. Route 16 between Irving-Hillsboro-Litchfield completed.
- 1926 City water works built. Sheet and pillow-case factory opened. Fire destroys A. H. Bartlett garage and American Express office. J. Earl Major elected to Congress, first of three terms.
- 1927 Light and power company replaces street cars with buses. Old Blockburger Inn torn down for service station. Trans-Atlantic telephone service available, \$78 for three minutes.
- 1928 Frank M. Ramey elected to Congress.
- 1929 Fire sweeps light and power office and American pants factory. Route 127 completed to Hillsboro.
- 1930 Thermometer registers 20 below on January 18, and 112 on July 28. Ben Wilton sells Lincoln furniture to Henry Ford for Dearborn Village. Banks closed at Donnellson, Nokomis, Rosamond, and Fillmore. Population of Montgomery county placed at 35,268.
- 1931 Final Chautauqua program given. Fire destroys St. Agnes Church. Newton Coffey heir claims title to original site of Hillsboro but Coffey deed shows land given to county "forever." Peoples Bank and Taylor Springs Bank absorbed by Montgomery County Loan & Trust Co.
- 1932 Overhead bridge south of Hillsboro opened. Beatrice Imhoff elected "Miss Illinois" at State American Legion convention. Fire destroys Old Settlers' cabin at Junior High School.

- 1933 All banks close for national bank holiday. Blue eagle of N. R. A. appears as merchants conform to new act. Pay checks go to unemployed under new C. W. A. plan.
- 1934 New Post Office Building completed. Citizens vote to continue commission form of city government. First airplane accident in community takes lives of Allen Harwood and John Mikeska.
- 1935 C. & E. I. passenger train wreck kills five, injures many. W. P. A. projects begin in county. Kiwanis Club receives charter.
- 1936 City builds P. W. A. sewage disposal plant and Central Park Swimming pool. New city hall erected.
- 1937 Ball Brothers rebuild glass factory. Ordinance prohibits the keeping of hogs in city limits. New city jail built.
- 1938 Business men work for proposed veterans' hospital. City sells water to Big Four Railroad.
- 1939 High school gymnasium, new water tower, and filtration system at swimming pool completed. Build all-weather roads to Fillmore, Walshville, and Raymond. One killed, six injured as dynamite blast levels two story flat and shatters windows in business area. J. T. Bullington elected circuit judge.

## *Town Presidents*

1855	Thomas Phillips	1863	Phordice Boutwell
1856	Jacob Whitehead	1864	Robert H. Stewart
1857	Joseph T. Eccles	1865	Austin Whitten
1858, 59	David B. Jackson	1866	John M. Keith
1860	Jacob Whitehead	1867	Thomas D. Washburn
1861	David McEwen	1868	Frank H. Gilmore
1862	Amos L. Clotfelter	1869	Burrell Phillips

## *Mayors*

1869	John T. Maddux	1893	James M. Truitt
1870	Fred Noterman	1895	Samuel H. McLean
1871	Paul Walter	1897	Duncan Best
1872	Fred Noterman	1899	Larkin G. Tyler
1873	A. H. Brown	1901	Henry N. Randle
1874	A. H. H. Rountree	1903	G. A. Clotfelter
1875	Edward S. Burns	1905	Rice Miller
1876	John F. Glenn	1907	Rice Miller
1877	M. M. Walsh	1909	E. B. Truitt
1878	Willam Conklin	1911	E. B. Truitt
1879	George H. Blackwelder	1912	H. C. Latham, Sr.
1880	Charles B. Rhoads	1915	Homer S. Butler
1881	Benjamin E. Johnson	1919	Charles Weber
1883	M. M. Walsh	1923	Charles Weber
1885	John T. Maddux	1927	Charles Weber
1887	Samuel H. McLean	1931	Ed. Ludwig, Sr.
1889	Willam A. Howett	1935	Harry J. Yoffle
1891	Charles A. Ramsey	1939	Walter R. McLean

## Personal Interviews

- John Little, 312 W. Wood Street.  
Harry Blockburger, Municipal Heating Plant.  
Miss Margaret Williams, 425 Rountree Street.  
C. H. Rolston, Abstracter, 204 S. Main Street.  
Miss Adell Phillips, Assistant Editor, *Montgomery News*.  
Thomas Bliss, Assistant Editor, *Montgomery News*.  
Robert Bliss, Assistant Editor, *Montgomery News*.  
Sam Little, Editor, *Hillsboro Journal*.  
Miss Rex Morehouse, Assistant Editor, *Hillsboro Journal*.  
Mrs. E. M. Stubblefield, 210 E. Wood Street.  
F. L. McDavid, Abstracter, 204 S. Main Street.  
Mrs. H. O. Pinkerton, 305 W. Wood Street.  
H. A. Cress, Sr., 127 N. Main Street.  
H. M. Beckwith, Abstracter, 207 S. Main Street.  
H. J. Beckemeyer, Superintendent, Hillsboro Grade Schools.  
J. E. Reynolds, Pastor, Methodist Church.  
John Vawter, 2 Vawter Place.  
Joseph M. Baker, 220A S. Main Street.  
Mrs. Alice Neylon, Hillsboro Community High School.  
John Good, Eagle Picher Lead Co.  
H. J. Yoffie, 301 S. Main Street.  
Fred Roemelin, City Water Works.  
Paul Graden, City Water Works.  
Earl Rush, Librarian, Public Library.

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*County Commissioners Records, Book A.*

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*Montgomery News*, July, 1876-July, 1880.

*Montgomery News*, January, 1900-1939.

*Hillsboro Journal*, January, 1900-1939.

Other Hillsboro newspapers from 1866 to 1939, excepting the years 1875, 1888, and 1889 are on file at the offices of the *Montgomery News* or the *Hillsboro Journal*.



*Views of Hillsboro*





THE COURTHOUSE—THE HUB OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S BUSINESS.



MAIN STREET AND THE SHOPPING DISTRICT



THE POSTOFFICE



THE SOLOMON HARKEY HOUSE, ERECTED IN 1832



THE HILLSBORO HOSPITAL



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE HIRAM ROUNTREE HOUSE, BUILT IN 1831





A WINDING LANE LEADS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL



THE LIBRARY—SIMILAR IN DESIGN TO THE OLD ACADEMY





THE EAGLE-PICHER PLANT, MANUFACTURERS OF ZINC OXIDES



THE NEW CITY HALL AND FIRE STATION



ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH—HILLSBORO'S NEWEST HOUSE OF WORSHIP



ENTRANCE TO OAK GROVE CEMETERY



LAKE HILLSBORO—A POPULAR PLACE IN SUMMER



THE COUNTRY CLUB AT LAKE HILLSBORO

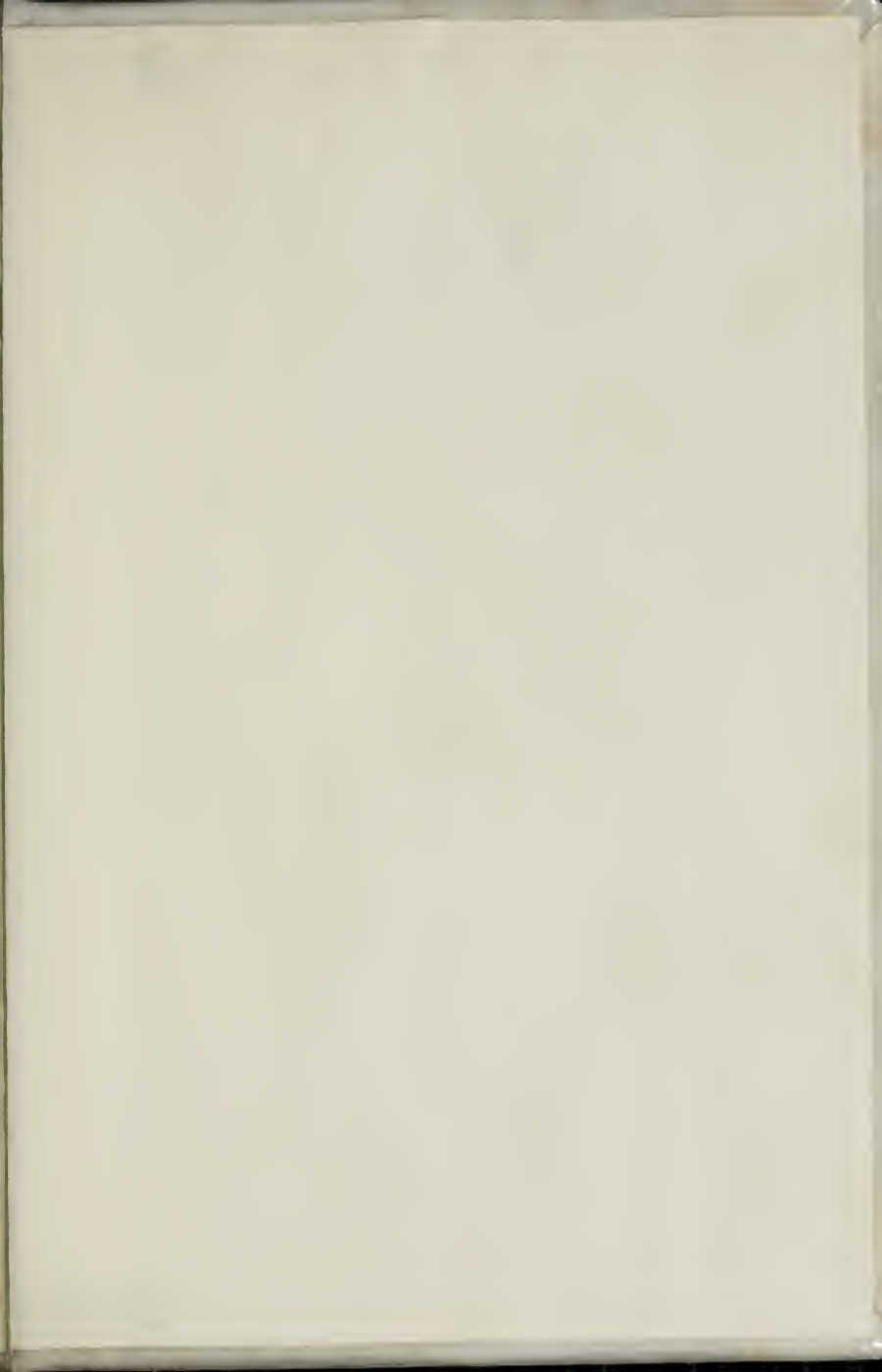


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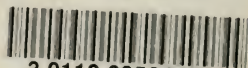
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